

C. American peace accord reported

WASHINGTON (R) — The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives said today he had been told the five Central American presidents meeting in Guatemala had reached agreement on a peace plan for the region. Congressman Jim Wright told reporters he was told early Friday morning that the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica were to sign an agreement on Friday calling for a simultaneous ceasefire in the region within 105 days. Each country would pledge not to aid guerrillas, to withdraw or undermine governments of neighboring countries, Mr. Wright said. "It looks very encouraging," Mr. Wright said. "I hope it does not come unglued." He said his information came from the Costa Rican ambassador in Washington, who called him early Friday morning on behalf of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. Mr. Wright said the peace plan calls for the five nations' foreign ministers to meet within 15 days and for the ceasefire to take effect within 90 days after that. The countries would also reach agreement on standards of civil and political rights for all countries in Central America, Mr. Wright said. *Frontline assaults U.S. plan, page 8*

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Jordan protests Israelis' excavations

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Jordan has complained to the U.N. that an ancient Islamic landmark in Jerusalem had been damaged by excavations carried out by the Israeli ministry of religious affairs. In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.N. Representative Abdullah Salah said Thursday damage had been caused to the Tankiziyah Madrasah, built in 1320 as an Islamic religious school. He said the building was later the seat of the Islamic supreme court until it was taken over by the Israeli army when Israel occupied the Old City in 1967. He said Muslim officials were recently able to visit only one room of the building adjoining the western wall near where excavations were being carried out. Mr. Salah said part of the floor had collapsed and there were cracks in the walls of the foundation and in the ceiling, as well as other damage. "The underlying cause is persistence in the excavations being carried out by the Israeli ministry of religious affairs underneath Islamic buildings in numerous directions for the purpose of completing schemes which have been drawn up but not yet completed," Mr. Salah said.

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Lebanese pound hits new low

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pound slumped to a record low rate against the dollar on Friday after Finance Minister Camille Chamoun was rushed to hospital with a severe heart ailment, dealers said. The Central Bank posted a closing price of 202 to the dollar, down 15 pounds from Monday's close of 187. The market was closed on the intervening days for the 'Eid Al Adha holiday.

2 killed, 35 hurt in Peshawar blast

PESHAWAR (R) — Two people were killed and 35 injured on Friday when the latest in a series of bomb attacks in Pakistan hit the north-western city of Peshawar, police said. A powerful device exploded in a soft drinks stall near a cinema and bus stop just before mid-day, they said. Peshawar is the main centre for rebel groups fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan. Pakistani officials have blamed Afghan secret agents for a string of bomb attacks in the region over the last 18 months, charges dismissed by Kabul (See page 4).

TASS reports rail 'disaster'

MOSCOW (AP) — A night passenger train slammed into a freight train while rolling through a coal-rich region of southern Russia, TASS said Friday. An unspecified number of people were killed. The official news agency called the wreck Thursday night at Kamenskaya station east of the city of Donetsk a "disaster." The wording of the dispatch indicated the loss of life might have been high. A government commission headed by Gennady Vedomirov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, was formed to determine the causes of the wreck. TASS said.

Reagan to make Iran-contra speech

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan announced on Friday that he would make a long-awaited speech to the nation on the Iran-contra affair next Wednesday. He announced the speech after making a televised statement on the economy in the White House press room. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said that in the 8 p.m. (0001 GMT, Aug. 13) speech, Mr. Reagan would give his views of the scandal and detail his plans for the last 17 months of his administration (Panels wind up hearings, page 2).

Bangui expels 21 Lebanese

BANGUI (R) — The Central African Republic on Friday announced the expulsion of 21 Lebanese two weeks after one of their compatriots hijacked an Air Afrique airliner to Geneva. The armed hijacker, who identified himself as Hussein Ali Mohammad Hani, boarded the DC-10 in the capital Bangui where he had been working. Government officials said three of the 21 Lebanese were expelled immediately after the July 24 hijacking, while the decision on the others was taken at a meeting on Aug. 1 of the ruling Central African Democratic Union, set up earlier this year by President Andre Kolingba. The reason given by Interior Minister Christophe Grelombe for the expulsions was "dubious morality." About 10,000 Lebanese live in the Central African Republic. Those expelled were mostly from the business community.

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U.S. delays escorts in Gulf; Iranians end naval exercises

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. navy has delayed further escorting of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf until at least next week when American minesweeping helicopters begin work in the war-torn waterway, defence officials said Friday.

"The convoy is being delayed and probably will not be run until late next week at the earliest," one of the officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. Officials said the U.S. helicopter transport ship Guadalcanal left the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia on Friday for the Gulf carrying eight navy minesweeping helicopters, which will clear a path to Kuwait for the tankers King, Ocean City and Sea Isle City.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz told Congress Friday the U.S. government does not intend to become involved in the Iran-Iraq war, or to invoke the War Powers Act to

give legal standing to its naval presence in the Gulf.

Mr. Shultz told a Senate appropriations subcommittee that U.S. warships were escorting reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Gulf to assure the free flow of oil to the West, and "to make sure that states that are friendly to us are not intimidated by Iran."

"We don't have any intention of getting into that war," Mr. Shultz said.

And he said because of the high incidence of terrorism around the world it makes little sense to invoke the War Powers Act in this particular instance.

"You can't go into that statute

over something like this," Mr. Shultz said.

Furthermore, he said that because the War Powers Act has a 60-day termination date requiring the president to withdraw U.S. forces unless Congress declares war or specifically authorises them to remain, the Reagan administration would be even more reluctant to invoke it.

After 60 days, he said, "the president can't do that any more; it doesn't even require a vote in Congress."

The federal courts are being asked to play referee between the White House and Congress in a foreign policy dispute stemming from Mr. Reagan's plan to protect Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf (See page 2).

Meanwhile Iran said it rammed a remote-controlled boat packed with explosives into a dummy "enemy target" Friday and test-fired an anti-ship missile in the Strait of Hormuz.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq frees Syrian pilot

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has released the pilot of a Syrian MIG-21 fighter that was downed last month over Iraqi territory, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Thursday.

The agency said the pilot, who was not identified, left Syria Wednesday accompanied by a representative of the Arab League.

There was no word from Syria whether the pilot had returned home. Arab League sources in Tunisia were quoted as saying the pilot was expected to arrive in Damascus Thursday.

The MIG-21 jet fighter was shot down by Iraq July 28. It crashed six kilometres inside Iraq at Al Qaem near the borders of the two countries.

Syria said at the time that the pilot was on a training flight when he strayed over Iraqi territory. Iraq charged it was on a military mission.

An unidentified Jordanian source quoted by Reuters said the pilot arrived in Amman on Wednesday and was to leave for Damascus aboard an Air France flight Thursday. There was no way of confirming the pilot's arrival in Syria.

Shevardnadze: Warships should leave Gulf region

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Friday that the situation in the Gulf was growing daily more dangerous and foreign warships, notably those of the United States, should be withdrawn.

"The number of ships and weapons there is enormous and is growing. The situation every day is becoming more and more dangerous," Mr. Shevardnadze told a news briefing.

He urged all countries to take steps that would help United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in his peace mission in the Iran-Iraq war. But, asked whether the Soviet Union was prepared to adopt an arms embargo against the warring states, he said it was premature to discuss the idea.

"Let's not run ahead of events. As far as the sanctions are concerned, let's see how the mission of the secretary-general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, comes out," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who earlier met the chief U.S. arms negotiator, called the situation in the Gulf "unpredictable and very complicated" and urged all nations to support the July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution urging an immediate ceasefire in

the seven-year-old Gulf war. "First, I think that now we should focus on making the mission of the U.N. secretary-general successful. Second, we should join efforts of all nations to remove the root cause of the situation — the Iran-Iraq war," he said.

"And thirdly, we have to work to remove the military presence — I have in mind the naval units of the great powers, including the United States."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar is holding separate meetings with Security Council members because of his continued concern about the Gulf war, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

No definitive reply had been received from Iran to the council's resolution. Mr. Perez de Cuellar was expected to visit the area but the timing had not been fixed.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's attempt to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati while they were both in Geneva last week failed.

If the war continues in defiance of the Security Council's mandatory resolution, the 15-nation body is committed to consider further steps including sanctions.

Iranians stage massive anti-U.S. demonstrations over Mecca deaths

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Millions of people vowing vengeance on the United States and Saudi Arabia demonstrated across Iran on Friday to protest against the bloodbath in Mecca a week ago, Tehran Radio said.

The new wave of Iranian threats came as the bodies of another 51 Iranian pilgrims were flown home Friday following last week's deadly riots in Mecca.

An Iran Air plane carrying the dead and 30 wounded survivors landed in Tehran, bringing the number of bodies repatriated to 109 following the July 31 violence.

Saudi Arabia says 275 Iranians were among 402 people killed during a stampede in the Holy City and violence that followed, and denies that police fired a single shot.

Iran claims 600 Iranians were killed by police gunfire in what it called a plot engineered by the United States.

"We will take our revenge against America directly," Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi told Tehran Radio.

Mr. Mohtashemi said Iran "will not allow the shameful and tragic acts of the Saudi police and regime to go unanswered, although the direct responsibility lies on the shoulders of America, which issued the order." Another Iranian leader, Chief

Justice Musavi Ardebili, vowed Iran would overthrow the Saudi monarchy and was ready to attack U.S. forces if provoked.

"We have reiterated that we don't want to fight in the Gulf," he told thousands of worshippers at Friday prayers in Tehran.

But (President Ronald) Reagan is increasing military forces there," Mr. Ardebili said, adding: "Reagan should know that by these actions Iran won't be frightened and will not step back."

The worshippers at times interrupted Mr. Ardebili's address with chants of "Death to America," "Death to Saudi Arabia" and "Death to Israel."

Tehran Radio repeated charges that Saudi Arabia was holding up the handover of Iranian bodies and was hampering medical care for the Iranian wounded.

But it said a march by non-Iranian clergymen and religious students from the holy city of Qom was stopped by police from approaching the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

In other developments: — Saudi Arabia said Thursday three of its diplomats missing in Tehran since Saturday had been freed but that the fate of a fourth was still unknown.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Riyadh as saying

"three employees abducted from the Saudi embassy in Tehran had been released. The fate of the fourth colleague was still unknown."

Earlier, a ministry spokesman said nothing had been heard about the four missing diplomats, whom Saudi Arabia said were abducted when Tehran demonstrators occupied the embassy to "protest" against the Mecca violence.

— Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa briefed President Hafez Al Assad on Thursday on his talks in Tehran aimed at easing tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported.

Mr. Sharaa delivered a message on Wednesday from Mr. Assad to Iranian President Ali Khamenei which SANA said underlined the need for easing the situation between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the deaths in Mecca.

Tehran Radio earlier said Mr. Sharaa denied Syria was trying to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia but quoted him as blaming the United States for the Mecca violence.

Rival sects threaten Iran and Saudi Arabia, page 2

Iranians started riots, pilgrims say, page 3

Camille Chamoun dies of heart failure

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Former President Camille Chamoun, who invited the first U.S. military intervention in the Middle East, died Friday of heart failure, the hospital announced.

Mr. Chamoun, 87, died at 4:25 p.m. (1325 GMT) in the intensive-care unit at east Beirut's Saint Georges Hospital, according to a hospital statement. He had been rushed there Thursday.

The statement did not disclose further details. Earlier, a hospital spokesman said Mr. Chamoun's condition had deteriorated after he was admitted Thursday suffering from a heart attack. The spokesman, who refused to be named, said Mr. Chamoun had been in a coma since 9 a.m. (0600 GMT).

The Maronite Catholic Chamoun was president from 1952 to 1958. He asked for U.S. military assistance to quell an uprising shortly before the end of his six-year term.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower dispatched a 5,000-member marine contingent to aid Mr. Chamoun. The force stayed in Lebanon for six months.

Mr. Chamoun escaped four



Camille Chamoun (1900-1987)

assassination attempts in 19 years. The first came May 5, 1968, when a youth from the northern city of Tripoli shot him with an automatic pistol in the jaw on the doorsteps of his party headquarters in east Beirut.

The three other attempts were by remote-controlled carbombs in March, 1980, November 1985 and Jan. 7 this year.

Mr. Chamoun, a wealthy businessman and lawyer, had held many cabinet posts since

1938. He used force and politics to defend Lebanon's Christians, turning to the United States and Israel for military aid to combat leftists, Palestinians and Syrians.

Acknowledged as a shrewd politician by both friends and foes, he was one of the first Christian leaders to openly attack a Syrian-mediated peace plan signed by Christian and Muslim leaders to end Lebanon's civil war in December 1985.

He reluctantly joining a national unity cabinet as finance minister in 1984, but remained suspicious of the Muslims and saw the accord as a Syrian attempt to gain total control over Lebanon.

Born April 3, 1900, Mr. Chamoun won his first parliamentary seat at the age of 29, fourteen years before Lebanon gained its independence from France.

In the late 1950s, Mr. Chamoun founded his right-wing National Liberal Party (NLP) to confront the growing leftist influence of the late Druze chief Kamal Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party in the Chouf province, the home region of both.

Mr. Chamoun's "Tigers" militia was active in Lebanon's civil

war until 1980 when rival right-wing fighters of the late President-elect Bashir Gemayel crushed it in a bloody confrontation.

Mr. Chamoun's son, Dany, 53, was elected by the NLP's congress to the party's leadership in 1986 and he has been rebuilding the Tigers force in Christian sectors of South Lebanon, allegedly in cooperation with Israel.

Mr. Chamoun predicted starvation in Lebanon in his latest public statement Wednesday.

"The nation is heading toward total bankruptcy and famine," Mr. Chamoun said.

He has another son, Dory, 55. His wife, Zelfha, died of cancer in 1971.

In 1968 Mr. Chamoun's would-be assassin, Nabih Akari, was sentenced to life imprisonment after his conviction.

However, Mr. Chamoun arranged a pardon for him in compliance with his wife's will.

In the feudal tradition which has characterised Lebanese politics since independence, Dany Chamoun won key posts in the NLP and is now a candidate for president.

Shultz sends envoy to discuss peace efforts with Israelis

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz said Thursday he was sending a personal envoy to hear from Israeli leaders their position on the stalemate peace efforts in the Middle East, but said he held out little hope for a breakthrough.

Mr. Shultz said his executive assistant Charles Hill "knows these issues very well, he's very close to me and he knows the people there well."

Mr. Shultz told a press conference he was sending Mr. Hill to Israel for "in-depth talks designed to dig in deeply and find out exactly how people see things."

The coalition Israeli government is divided over the Arab proposal for an international Middle East peace conference convened by the five permanent members of the U.N. security Council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Mr. Shultz, in a strong hint that Mr. Hill would press Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to be more flexible on the question of such a conference, he has opposed the idea adamantly, said every opportunity had to be explored.

"Our view is that moves toward peace are very important, that opportunities that may present themselves should be taken advantage of and explored in detail so that we make sure we don't miss any bets," he said.

Mr. Shultz repeated that Washington was prepared to consider an international conference provided it was an umbrella session designed to lead to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

"Obviously, an international conference in and of itself is not of any interest to us," he said.

Washington is concerned that a conference along the lines of the Arab proposal would give a significant role to Moscow in the Middle East. U.S. officials say Washington would not go along with that.

Israelis beef up forces in W. Bank to counter mounting protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army has increased its presence in the occupied territories in the face of a mounting wave of violent anti-Israeli attacks and was barring its soldiers from travelling alone in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Near the occupied West Bank town of Qalqilya, the army set up a tent and said it would increase patrols in the area where unknown assailants threw a fire bomb on Thursday into a car carrying a Jewish settler couple, severely injuring the woman.

Three Palestinians have been injured in the West Bank city of Nablus in clashes between demonstrators and Israeli forces in the last two days.

Israel Radio quoted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying Thursday's firebomb attack forced the army to let West Bank Palestinians "feel its iron fist."

The attack occurred early Thursday morning on a road between Qalqilya and the nearby Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe.

The army imposed a curfew on Qalqilya and combed the area, said an army official.

Witnesses quoted by news agencies said the army searched homes and orchards and detained several suspects.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli police shot and wounded two Palestinians, Israel Television reported.

It said the two were taken to a hospital and that another person was also apparently wounded.

The television said the Palestinians threw stones and burned tyres during a protest in downtown Nablus.

It was a second incident in

Nablus in two days. On Wednesday, Israeli police shot and wounded a Palestinian man during a violent demonstration.

The curfew on Qalqilya was lifted last Thursday, but Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said the army planned to increase its presence in the area and establish some permanent posts there.

The army said Friday it would bar soldiers from travelling alone in the occupied Gaza Strip following the killing of an Israeli military police commander on Sunday.

The commander, Captain Ron Tal, was shot at close range while driving a military vehicle on the main street of the city of Gaza.

An army spokeswoman said the new regulation for vehicle travel would replace a measure allowing soldiers to ride solo with the permission of their bases.

U.S. and Soviet Union agree to speed up talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union agreed on Friday to speed up arms negotiations to narrow differences before a meeting next month of their foreign ministers.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told journalists the agreement was reached during a three-hour meeting he had with chief U.S. arms negotiator Max Kampelman.

Best use of the time available before the meeting — and we don't have much time, only a month or so — to prepare a mutually-acceptable draft agreement on medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles," he said.

In a separate news briefing, Mr. Kampelman said he hoped for progress on banning intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) and on reducing strategic weapons before the Sept. 15-17 meeting between Mr. Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

But Mr. Shevardnadze reiterated that Moscow insisted on the removal of American warheads on West Germany's Pershing-1A missiles as part of an INF deal. Mr. Kampelman insisted that

the Pershing could not be part of an INF treaty.

Mr. Shevardnadze accused the U.S. Geneva talks team of not engaging in substantive discussions so far.

"If one compares the negotiations with a two-engine aeroplane, the Soviet-U.S. negotiations are flying on the power of one engine. This is the Soviet engine," he said.

"But the aeroplane we have is a heavy aeroplane which is overloaded with the burden of nuclear weapons. The other engine has to be started," he said.

Mr. Kampelman retorted: "I assure you that the United States is not prepared to be an idle passenger."

Asked whether the United States had shown a softening on the Pershing issue, Mr. Shevardnadze declined to provide details of what Mr. Kampelman said. He implied there had been no major change.

However, he added, "there are some nuances, and they will be subject to negotiation." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Shevardnadze described his talks with Mr. Kampelman as "substantive, interesting and businesslike."

Jayewardene appeals to Sinhalese for peace

COLOMBO (Agencies) — President Junius R. Jayewardene told the nation Friday that Indian troops overseeing a truce in the Tamil insurgency are under his control and appealed to the Sinhalese majority to help restore peace.

As officials processed release documents for thousands of Tamil prisoners granted amnesty under the new peace accord, Mr. Jayewardene spoke to his nation of 16 million in a nationally broadcast radio and television address.

"The peace accord with India has brought us from darkness to light and will help us find peace

for all in this island," he said.

He appealed for an end to the terrorism which he said now exists "only in the south" of the nation — the heartland of the Sinhalese Buddhist majority.

Mr. Jayewardene said Sinhalese radicals are stirring up trouble in the south and opposing the peace accord. He was referring to groups like the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front), which wants to overthrow the government and opposes any concessions to the Tamil minority.

The accord provides for an Indian peacekeeping force to oversee the surrender of arms by

Tamil separatist rebels and for Sri Lankan troops to return to barracks. Sinhalese Buddhists dominate the government and military.

"The Indians will leave when asked to do so," Mr. Jayewardene promised. "Till I say 'thank you' for your help, for all you have done, the Indian troops will be here under my command, under my direction."

Meanwhile, a senior government official, who asked not to be identified, said preparations were under way to begin releasing an estimated 5,000 Tamils held without charges in detention camps and jails across the country.

Government officials say pri-

vately that some releases in Sinhalese areas will be carried out in secret to prevent ethnic violence.

The government had said it would not release any of the detainees until it was satisfied that Tamil rebels had turned over all their weapons.

Reports said Indian navy ships would transport 5,000 freed Tamil prisoners from the southern Sri Lankan town of Galle in a week-long operation starting Saturday.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka also appealed for international help to rebuild its economy under the peace pact

Congressmen file suit against Reagan over reflagging policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The federal courts are being asked to resolve a foreign policy dispute between White House and Congress stemming from President Ronald Reagan's plan to protect Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

A lawsuit by members of Congress seeks to invoke the 1973 War Powers Act, which limits a president's authority to send U.S. military personnel into situations of "imminent hostilities."

The suit lists 114 members of the Senate and House of Representatives as plaintiffs.

The war powers act was enacted in 1973 over a veto by then-President Richard Nixon. It says U.S. military personnel can't be sent to areas of imminent danger for more than 60 days unless Congress specifically approves the deployment.

Congressman Mike Lowry, an opposition Democrat and chairman of the House Democratic Study Group, said every administration since 1973 has argued that the law is an unconstitutional restriction on a president's authority, but the supreme court has not ruled on the issue.

The suit concerns Mr. Reagan's plan to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers with American flags and U.S. navy warships as they travel through the war-torn Gulf. That has raised fears in the Democratic-controlled Congress about involving the United States in the Iran-Iraq war. Iran has accused Kuwait of aiding Iraq.

At the White House on Thursday, spokesman Roman Popadiuk declined to comment on the suit. But he noted that in a recent report to Congress, the White House discussed the question of whether the War Powers Act applied to the current situation.

"The War Powers Act is not applicable under the present circumstances," the report said.

"This is not a situation where imminent involvement of U.S. forces in hostilities is clearly indicated."

Mr. Lowry disagreed. "If there was ever a case where the War Powers Act's terms of imminent hostilities applies, this is it."

He noted the May 17 Iraqi attack on the USS Stark, which killed 37 American sailors, and the July 24 incident in which the reflagged Kuwaiti tanker Bridgeton hit a mine while being escorted by three navy warships.

The fight over the War Powers Act is the latest response in Congress to Mr. Reagan's policy. Legislators have been unable to agree on how they should react.

Earlier Thursday, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee heard legislators support a bill to ban the Kuwaiti reflagging unless Kuwait agrees to allow bases for U.S. minesweeping helicopters.

Eight of those helicopters have been sent to the Gulf, where they will operate from a navy ship.

Kuwait, which fears Iranian attack, has told U.S. officials informally that it would refuse a request to base the helicopters on its soil, according to navy officials in the Gulf.

Democratic Congressman Walter Jones, chairman of the panel, said "it is a disgrace" that no U.S. anti-mine units are permitted in Kuwait.

The Reagan administration said Thursday it had not asked Kuwait for permission to base U.S. minesweeping helicopters

on its soil but did not rule out such a request in future.

State Department official Marion Creekmore said Kuwait was giving unspecified other help in "working out details for greater mine protection" for American warships escorting Kuwaiti tankers flying the U.S. flag through the Gulf.

"The United States has never requested permission to base helicopters in Kuwait to support mine-clearing operations in the Gulf," Mr. Creekmore, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told a congressional hearing.

But Mr. Creekmore said the United States was keeping the situation in the Gulf under constant review and "new requests are always possible."

Meanwhile the State Department has said Iran is more likely to use terrorism than direct strikes if it decides to retaliate against the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf.

Secretary of State George Shultz and his top Middle East policy maker also say they haven't given up efforts to persuade U.S. allies to help clear mines endangering American vessels and other ships in the Gulf.

Asked at a news conference Thursday about Iranian threats against the United States, Mr. Shultz said, "Iran has had a lot of things to say publicly, and they've whipped people up."

He said Iran has been sponsoring terrorism for years, but "right now there is a particularly inflamed period on their part in their rhetoric."

In an apparent reference to U.S. bases in Western Europe, which have been terrorist targets in the past, Mr. Shultz said "we have to be on the alert in our various installations" following

last week's rioting in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have blamed the violence, in which hundreds died, on armed Iranians.

U.S. warships escorting oil tankers through the Gulf must pass near Iranian territorial waters in the Strait of Hormuz, said Mr. Shultz. "I don't think there is any prospect at all that we'll be drawn into a shooting war."

"We are there to deter acts of aggression against perfectly legitimate shipping by countries that are neutral, and we have no chip on our shoulder," he said.

"Obviously if we are attacked, we will have to see what actions we'll take, but we are not there in any kind of provocative way," he said.

In a satellite news conference with reporters in Western Europe, Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, was asked to assess Iranian intentions.

"They have chosen to go against a number of countries' interests by sabotage, by assassination, by hostage taking, by kidnapping," rather than against the navies of the Western nations in the Gulf, Mr. Murphy said.

Both officials said the West has improved its counter-terrorist intelligence system in recent years and is better able to prevent attacks than in the past.

They also said the United States has not halted its effort to persuade Western European allies to assist in clearing mines threatening oil tankers in the Gulf. Mr. Murphy said he was "not pessimistic" about the prospects of obtaining such help, but neither he nor Mr. Shultz provided any specifics on what the arrangements might be.

Saudi envoy rejects link between reflagging and riots in Mecca

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Saudi ambassador to the United States has rejected any connection between the U.S. reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf and the riots at Mecca.

Prince Bandar bin Sultan also said the reflagging operation does not necessarily escalate tensions in a already-troubled region.

At a briefing for reporters, Prince Bandar separated the reflagging and the riots at Mecca where 402 people were killed at the holy Islamic city.

"There is a tragedy that took place," Prince Bandar said. "What has that got to do with you Americans?"

"I just don't see any linkage and logic," he added.

Saudi Arabia said the Muslims died at Mecca last Friday when an Iranian political demonstration turned into a riot. The dead included 275 Iranians, 85 Saudis and 42 other pilgrims, the Saudis said.

Saudi officials blamed the outbreak on a small group of Iranian political agitators. Prince Bandar said more than half the dead were crushed, and "not a single bullet was fired" by Saudi security forces.

Iran accused Saudi police of opening fire on the crowd and charged that the United States was behind the action.

Iran has singled out Kuwaiti tankers for attack, accusing Kuwait of aiding its enemy, Iraq, in the Gulf war. The United States plans to reflag 11 Kuwaiti ships to protect navigation in the Gulf.

Prince Bandar played down the significance of the reflagging effort.

The reflagging "cannot be considered as an escalating factor simply because there are other people doing the same thing," he said.

"Britain there, France is there, the Soviet Union is there. The trouble has been there before you did this anyway," Prince Bandar said.

France and Britain have refused U.S. requests to increase the number of their ships in the Gulf and to help with mine-sweeping efforts.

Prince Bandar, giving an account of riot, told a news conference Saudi tolerance was being pushed to its limit.

"King Fahd is a very tolerant man and always opts for peace, for reconciliation," he said. "We are moderate, which we are proud of, but it doesn't mean we compromise basic principles."

"Some of those Iranian agitators became arrogant enough" to push Saudi tolerance to the breaking point during the riots, Prince Bandar said.

"There are limits to what we tolerate and we, I think, have reached it."

Iran-contra committees end hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The congressional Iran-contra committees have wrapped up their hearings, but investigators are not likely to complete their final report before October.

The panels on Thursday finished interviewing their 32nd witness, CIA covert operations Director Clair George, in closed session. That concluded three days of private testimony from CIA witnesses, said there were no plans to hear from further witnesses.

However, Congressman Lee Hamilton, an opposition Democrat and chairman of the House of Representatives Panel, did not rule out the possibility that further witnesses could be called.

"There are lots of leads that have not been pursued as fully as we could," Mr. Hamilton said.

Unanswered questions remain for "almost every single witness," he said.

Asked whether Vice President George Bush was correct when he asserted the hearings have placed him beyond criticism in the secret sale of weapons to Iran and the resupply of the Nicaraguan rebels, Mr. Hamilton reiterated that the committees' work is not yet complete.

"So long as that's the status of it, I'm not going to make any comment with regard to Vice President Bush, or any other person, that has any finality to it," Mr. Hamilton said.

Most widely believed among the recent major witnesses was fired White House aide Lt. Col.

likely the panels' final report will be finished before October. He said he saw no need for sweeping legislative change.

In another development, the Washington Post reported that special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh will have to obtain a judge's approval of questions he wants two Israeli figures to answer.

Israel objects to subpoenas by Mr. Walsh's grand jury, a panel of citizens that reviews evidence and decides whether the case should be prosecuted.

The panel wants to question Adolph Schwimmer, an Israeli arms dealer, and David Kimche, a former Foreign Ministry official, about the arms sales. The Post said U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson will review the questions Mr. Walsh wants to put to the Israelis.

Meanwhile, an ABC Television-Washington Post poll conducted Sunday through Wednesday of this week found that a majority of Americans still don't believe President Ronald Reagan has generally told the truth about the Iran-contra affair, though more now believe him than in recent weeks.

According to the poll, 52 per cent think Mr. Reagan has not told the truth compared with 44 per cent who think he has told the truth. The doubters were down from 60 per cent on July 21 and 69 per cent as recently as June 1.

Most widely believed among the recent major witnesses was fired White House aide Lt. Col.

Oliver North, with 71 per cent believing he told the truth compared with 24 per cent who think he lied.

Least believed was Col. North's boss, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, who generally supported Col. North's version of events. Just 41 per cent believed Adam Poindexter, while 47 per cent didn't.

The poll's sponsors said they interviewed 1,205 adults by telephone to obtain results with a potential sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Since Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger completed his testimony Monday and committee leaders summed up the hearings in closing statements, the panels have been behind closed doors interviewing George, CIA Central American Task Force chief Alan Fiers and CIA counterterrorism head Duane Clarridge.

Transcripts of those sessions are to be made public next week, after classified information is expurgated from the texts by the White House.

Mr. Hamilton said the testimony from Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials had not clarified the role of former agency Director William Casey in the affair.

Mr. Hamilton said if he had been asked last November or December, "I would have answered that it probably was not a central role. Today my sense is that it very much was a central role."

Israeli poll shows drop in Likud popularity

TEL AVIV (AP) — A public opinion survey published Friday showed support for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc has decreased more than six per cent since the 1984 national elections.

The poll by the Israeli Pori Institute, which appeared in the Ha'aretz daily, also showed a 2.8 per cent increase in popularity for the left-leaning Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The latest survey was seen as a possible boost to Labour's recent efforts to seek holding elections earlier than November 1988, as scheduled, because of a cabinet

split over a proposed international Middle East peace conference. Labour and Likud formed a joint governing coalition three years ago because of an election stalemate.

The newspaper said the pollsters questioned a random sample of 1,200 Israelis last month. It did not give a margin of error.

According to the poll, only 25.8 per cent of respondents said they would vote Likud, or 6.1 per cent less than the 31.9 per cent won by the bloc in the last elections.

Labour scored 39.9 per cent support as compared to 37.1 per

cent in 1984, the newspaper said.

The newspaper said 7.8 per cent of respondents chose other left-wing parties, an increase of 2.7 per cent from the last elections. It also showed a 4.5 per cent increase in support for small right-wing parties.

Another 9.3 per cent of voters said they supported Israel's four minority religious parties, while 4.4 cited tiny splinter parties, the newspaper said.

About three per cent of those interviewed refused to say for whom they would vote, the newspaper added.

Fire threatens British base in Cyprus

EPISKOPKI, Cyprus (R) — British officials and Cypriot police Friday investigated a bush fire which threatened homes at the British military base at Episkopi Thursday night.

Security sources said they did not suspect arson as the cause of the fire, which resulted in slight property damage and sent four people to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

Two hundred British troops and Cypriot firefighters took two hours to put out the blaze. West-

sex helicopters dumped sea water on the flames.

"The blaze came right up to my garden gate," base spokesman Johnny Rogers said.

He denied press reports that a stolen car found abandoned near the fire had been loaded with explosives.

"We treated it with suspicion but found nothing in it," he said, adding that a small controlled explosion was used to gain access to the car.

Britain maintains 256 square

kilometres of sovereign territory on Cyprus, established by treaty at the island's independence in 1960.

About 10,000 British servicemen, civilians and dependants live at the three bases of Episkopi, Dhakelia and Akrotiri.

In April, gunmen wounded a British army corporal and a teenage girl as they travelled between two of the bases. The wives of two servicemen were wounded a year ago when guerrillas attacked Akrotiri with mortars.

Kurdish rebels kill 2 Turkish soldiers

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels killed two soldiers Friday when they attacked a prison at Hozat in the eastern province of Tunceli, the regional governor's office said.

Troops launched a big search operation for the attackers.

A statement from the governor's office said three villagers were abducted by rebels near Cukurca in the south eastern province of Hakkari on Wednesday.

Such attacks are usually attributed to the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK), a rebel group seeking autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Kurdish exiles have occupied West German offices in several European countries in recent days, protesting at raids on Kurdish organisations by the Bonn authorities.

Dutch sounding out Europeans to support U.S. Navy in Gulf

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Netherlands is trying to organise European diplomatic support for U.S. Navy operations in the Gulf, according to Dutch press reports Friday.

"Dutch officials have been sounding out members of the West European Union (WEU), a body made up of seven European NATO nations, about the initiative, said the Amsterdam newspaper De Volkskrant.

The Netherlands is this year's WEU president.

However, Dutch Defence Ministry spokesman Eric Ouwenaar told the Associated Press that "there's nothing going on."

The Volkskrant report said "the initiative should not in the first place be seen as military, but rather as diplomatic," but did not indicate what specific form that diplomatic support could take.

The reported Dutch initiative followed last week's rejection by the Dutch government of an informal U.S. request for Dutch

navy support for its operations in the Gulf area.

The Netherlands owns an ultra-modern fleet of 13 mine hunters, and American officials reportedly asked the Netherlands to deploy some of those ships for mine hunting duties in the Gulf.

A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman refused to confirm the Friday reports.

"As to the kind of situation that is now going on in the Gulf, it goes without saying that the Netherlands is in permanent contact with the appropriate nations," said the spokesman, who spoke in exchange for anonymity, in line with ministry policy.

He declined to say whether those nations were in fact the six other WEU members.

Other diplomatic sources in The Hague denied any knowledge of the Dutch initiative. A Dutch source said privately that "there are all kinds of speculation... (but there are) certainly no initiatives (via) the WEU or whatever."

Rival Sunni, Shi'ite factions threaten Iran, Saudi Arabia

BEIRUT (AP) — Each of two hitherto unknown Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim underground groups on Friday vowed to carry out respective attacks against Iranian and Saudi interests, reflecting a widening rift between Islam's two major sects.

The Sunni "Islamic Reform Organisation-Al Saoud Squad" pledged attacks against "Iran's interest throughout the Arab World if Iran and its agents carried out any attack against Saudi Arabia."

The Shi'ite "Sons of Hizbollah-Hijaz" vowed to "confront the oppression and aggression carried out by the Saudi rulers against Muslims in the holy city of Mecca."

A statement by the Sunni group said: "We warn the old sickhead (Iran's patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini that the Sunnis in Lebanon have at last broken their silence and chose to stand by Saudi Arabia's side."

The handwritten one-page

statement was delivered to the office of a Western news agency reporter in Tripoli, Lebanon's main city, second-largest city 80 kilometres north of Beirut.

The Shi'ite threat was published by the daily As Safir together with a poster carrying photos of five "martyrs of Hijaz who fell in the past two years." It did not disclose the circumstances of their death.

The paper said the poster was printed in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

Nearly all Iranians are Shi'ite Muslims. Most Saudi Arabians belong to the Sunni sect, grouping 85 per cent of the world's 850 million Muslims.

Hijaz is a western Saudi province. An estimated 200,000 Shi'ite minority resides in the desert kingdom's oil-rich eastern province.

The statement claimed that Shi'ite mosques in two Saudi towns were closed last month on orders from King Fahd.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme Review
15:45 Moby Dick
16:15 Family Ness
17:00 Scientific programme
17:20 Chubby
17:45 Medicine Men
18:15 Arabic series
19:10 Local family programme
19:45 Programme Review
19:50 News Summary
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:00 Varieties
21:55 Tomorrow's programme
22:30 Arabic play
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les sciences et la vie (documentary)
19:00 News in French
19:15 French Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Together We Stand
21:00 Wild Flower
21:10 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Convicted: A Mother's Story"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.80 KHz, SW

Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 Newsday
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 The Guitar Greats
12:00 News Summary
12:05 38 years of American Top Ten Hits

13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Summary
14:15 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments/Old favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:40 Newsday/Music
19:30 Date with a Star

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12510 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 VOA Morning

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267

American Centre - 644371

American Centre Library - 641520

British Council - 6361478

French Cultural Centre - 637003

Goethe Institute - 641093

Soviet Cultural Centre - 644023

Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777

Haya Arts Centre - 669105

Hussein Youth City - 6671816

Y.W.C.A. - 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. - 662521

Amman Municipal Library - 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library - 843535

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Betery Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terraviva Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, 7:30 p.m.

Jabel Luweibdeh, 7:30 p.m. In Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 625363.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 772621.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Smezzini, Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smk), Tel. 811295.

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His Majesty King Hussein prays at the University of Jordan Mosque during Eid Al Adha. Accompanying the King are (from right to left) Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Dr. Ahmad Hilayyel, director of the

preaching and guidance department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah and Faisal (Petra photo).

Back to work after Eid Al Adha holiday

King joins worshippers at University of Jordan Mosque for religious services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan returns to work today following a four-day holiday to mark Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) which followed the annual holy pilgrimage to Mecca and other Islamic shrines in Saudi Arabia.

Eid Al Adha fell Tuesday, Aug. 4, and was celebrated by religious ceremonies in mosques around the Kingdom.

His Majesty King Hussein joined worshippers at dawn Tuesday at the University of Jordan Mosque and heard a sermon by Sheikh Mohammad Shaqra. The sermon was devoted to the meaning of pilgrimage and the need for Muslims to mobilise their resources and efforts to confront threats to Islam and to end differ-

ences in the Islamic world. Sheikh Shaqra also condemned the bloody riots in Mecca caused by Iranian pilgrims and subversive elements, resulting in the death of more than 400 people.

Attending the prayers with the King were his sons, Their Royal Highnesses Princes Talal and Faisal, as well as Their Royal Highnesses Princes Talal and Ghazi, sons of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, and other members of the royal

family.

Among the worshippers were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker, Cabinet members, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, and senior officials and high ranking army officers.

After the prayers, King Hussein met with worshippers who expressed their good wishes on the occasion.

King Hussein later visited the tombs of his grandfather, His Majesty King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom and his father, His Majesty King Talal, where he recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths. The tombs were also visited on the occasion by Prince Mohammad, and Princes Abdullah, Faisal, Talal and Ghazi as well as Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

King Hussein met with senior officers of the Armed Forces, the public security, civil defence and intelligence departments at a reception held at the Al Hussein Youth City. They expressed their good wishes to the King on the Eid Al Adha. Also expressing their good wishes to the King were the commander and senior

officers of the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Jordan.

Present with the King at the reception was Sharif Zaid, Army Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, and the directors of the public security, civil defence, intelligence departments, the Royal Medical Services and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

On the occasion of Eid Al Adha, King Hussein received goodwill messages from kings and heads of state of Arab and friendly nations. Cables of good wishes also came from senior government officials, prominent public figures, heads of public and private organisations, trade unions and members of the public.

Iranian mobs started riots, say pilgrims

By Leila Deeb
Reuters

AMMAN — Pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia said Iranian demonstrators stoned, stabbed and beat Saudi police and other pilgrims outside Mecca's Grand Mosque last week.

"The demonstration was the work of a mob — not for Islam or any other religion. Its aims were political," former soldier Ahmed Mohammed Al Houqan said Friday on his return to Amman.

In Cairo, where the first of 80,000 Egyptian pilgrims also returned Friday, Rashad Al Qweini said the Iranians wanted to show Saudi Arabia was unable to protect Islam's holy places.

"The Iranians spat and urinated inside the Muslims' holiest shrine," said an Egyptian woman, Intsar Mohammed Soad, who made the pilgrimage with her husband.

All questioned by Reuters at Cairo Airport said there had been no shooting, but Lebanese pilgrims returning to Beirut said police fired automatic weapons into the air to try and disperse the demonstrators.

"I saw Saudi police shoot automatic rifles in the air, but not at the Iranians," Kamel, a 40-year-old Sunni Muslim, told Reuters. A Lebanese Shi'ite woman, who asked not to be identified, said Iranian demonstrators used knives, stones and shards of broken glass in their clash with Saudi police.

"Fist-fights broke out between Iranian pilgrims and pilgrims from other countries in the streets," she said. "Soon the demonstrators used knives, stones and glass."

"Saudi police intervened, using sticks (batons). Many pilgrims were stampeded when people became frightened and started to panic, running in all directions," she added.

Some pilgrims in Cairo said there had been limited skirmishes in Mecca Thursday between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security men, but no one was hurt.

One doctor from the West Bank town of Nablus told Reuters in Amman he had heard the sound of gunfire last Friday but most of the dozen witnesses questioned at Queen Alia Airport said there had been no shooting.

A Kuwaiti pilgrim, Saleh Ahmed, 34, said he thought he had seen two bodies with gunshot wounds.

Saudi Arabia said 402 people, including 275 Iranians, were killed in the violence on July 31. Iran said 600 Iranians were killed or are missing.

The Nablus doctor said he saw Iranians stab two Jordanians next to him. "They mistook the pilgrims for Saudis because they were wearing (Saudi-style) head-dresses."

"Then I was hit on the head by a stone and bit my tongue," said the doctor, showing his blue and swollen tongue.

Other pilgrims said tens of thousands of Iranians had taken part in what started as a peaceful march, carrying portraits of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his designated successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

"They had banners saying 'Down With America' and 'Down With Israel'," said a middle-aged man who watched the march from the windows of a residence allocated to pilgrims.

Hamdallah Yousef Hiyari, 41, from Amman, said the violence began when Saudi police tried to disperse the demonstrators.

"They began attacking the police and by God we ran away," said a pilgrim. Several pilgrims said streets near the Grand Mosque were littered with blood-stained bodies, burnt-out cars and rocks after the clashes.

"I saw about 60 corpses lying on the street leading to the Grand Mosque," said Hussein, 27, from Amman. "I saw blood, women, children ... maybe there was shooting, but it was far away."

In Cairo, Ismail Mohammed Refaat, an Egyptian doctor working in Kuwait, said: "I did not hear any shooting. There were only water cannons to disperse the demonstrators."

One Jordanian pilgrim said he was inside the Grand Mosque when fighting began. "They closed the main doors and kept us inside. Nobody got inside the mosque. There was no shooting."

Another man said officials in charge of the 20,000 Jordanians on this year's pilgrimage had warned them the previous day that there might be trouble.

"The night before we heard talk that riots were expected so we stayed indoors," said the head of one family.

Former soldier Houqan said the Iranians had distributed leaflets in the Grand Mosque calling for the ousting of corrupt Islamic governments.

Crown Prince ends European visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned to Amman Thursday evening following visits to Switzerland and France.

While in Geneva, Prince Hassan delivered an address to the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In his address, the Crown Prince made two new proposals; the first calls for the formation of an

independent and impartial group to reassess the performance of the international economic system, and the second urges the establishment of an international technology transfer facility which could help the development of the Third World.

Prince Hassan also outlined Jordan's economic development in his address which drew favourable responses and support from the participating nations.

Upon their return, Prince Has-

san and Princess Sarvath were greeted by the Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Zaid Ibn Shaker, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, and other senior officials. Also present to greet the Prince and Princess were the ambassadors of France and Switzerland to Jordan.

14 killed, 144 injured over Eid break

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fourteen people were killed and 144 others injured in different accidents in the Kingdom during the Eid Al Adha holiday, according to reports obtained Friday from the public security and civil defence departments and hospitals.

The casualties resulted from 74 car accidents, 24 fires and 12 cases of poisoning.

A Public Security Department (PSD) spokesman said that five people died and 32 were injured in 69 car accidents in the Amman area. A report compiled by Al Bashir Hospital in Amman said that the emergency section in the hospital handled 920 cases out of which 86 involved cases of people falling, 25 with burns, 59 from car accidents, 12 with gunshot wounds, 32 cases of diarrhoea and dehydration, 12 poisoned and 12 people injured in stabbing incidents.

The Civil Defence Department reported 9 people dead and 92 injured in 24 house fires and 27

car accidents all over the Kingdom.

In Deir Alla, Husni Amra, 45, was taken to Salt Hospital after being poisoned from inhaling chlorine gas in the area. In Quweishah, Fayrouz Ja'bani was reported to have died from a heart attack before reaching the University Hospital.

Majidi, Malkawi, 23, was killed after being hit by a bus driven by Tayel Ali in the Amman area.

Zahra Salameh, 19, died from burns after a fire in their Amman home. Police said arson was suspected and that investigations were under way.

In Zarqa, Hussein Ahmad Muheisen was killed when his private car overturned along the Hashimieh road.

In Ghor Al Mazra'a, two people identified as Ayed and Atallah Ja'arat, were admitted to Karak Hospital suffering from wounds and bruises which they sustained as a result of a quarrel. A child identified as Mohammad Ja'arat was admitted to the Potash Company's clinic suffering

from a wound in his head.

In Ma'an, three people identified as Mohammad Ibrahim, Sabri Juma'a Hassan and Shawqi Ramadan have been admitted to Ma'an hospital after their car overturned.

Two women identified only as Z. Th. M. 32, and N.M.A., 17 attempted suicide by taking large quantity of tablets. They were rushed to Bashir Hospital where they were treated and are now in good condition.

In Hashimi Street in downtown, a man identified as Mohammad Yassin Mohammad Al Zaghail, 40, has stabbed Mohammad Moussa Issa, 42, in his back as a result of a dispute between them.

In Marka, an 11-year-old boy, Nayef Abdullah Al Da'aja, was shot dead when another 11-year-old boy, belonging to the Da'aja family, Ahmed Shaker Da'aja, used a machine gun and shot him in the house of the victim's aunt in north Marka. The boy admitted to the crime and surrendered to the police, who also impounded the machine gun.

People flood downtown streets



Downtown Amman brims with people shopping for the Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) holiday. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves — except, perhaps, the lamb in the photograph below (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)



Pilgrim convoys due today after violent haj season

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first convoys of Jordanian pilgrims are expected back in Jordan today after taking part in this year's annual pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrims also visited the holy city of Medina where they visited the tomb and the mosque of the Prophet Mohammad.

The pilgrims were reported to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, to have left Mecca Thursday heading for Medina on their way home.

A spokesman for the Jordanian medical mission accompanying the pilgrims reported that the pilgrims were generally in good health.

Petra said that nearly 20,000 pilgrims from the East and West banks of Jordan, areas occupied by Israel since 1948, and the Gaza Strip performed this year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

Earlier, the agency reported the death of one person, Bader Zaarour, from the Nazareth region in occupied Palestine as a result of the rioting in Mecca, triggered by Iranian demonstrations. Two other pilgrims, Latifa Jamil Abu Own from Gaza Strip, and Assad Fazzouh from Qalqilia, died of heart failures after suffering from respiratory problems. Their deaths were unrelated to

the riots. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs which supervised the Jordanian pilgrims' trip from beginning to end earlier reported the death of four other pilgrims, one in a road accident and three others of natural causes.

Saudis deliver lamb

Saudi Arabia is sending sacrificial meat to Islamic countries to distribute to refugees following the slaughter of nearly two million lambs near Mecca Tuesday as part of the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said trucks carrying 6,000 lamb carcasses left for Jordan for distribution among Palestinian refugees.

So far 52 trucks carrying 31,200 carcasses have gone to Jordan, SPA said. A special plane left for Peshawar, Pakistan, to deliver 2,800 carcasses for Afghan refugees, it added.

Each pilgrim is required to sacrifice a lamb for Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice). In the past, the meat often went to waste but Saudi authorities and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank now organise deliveries to refugees.



Her Majesty Queen Noor and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid with Jordan's delegation to the 7th International Summer Special Olympics Games for the Mentally Handicapped at Notre Dame University in Indiana (Petra photo).

Queen returns from Special Olympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 7th International Summer Special Olympics Games for the Mentally Handicapped finishes competitions today at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, according to a press release from the Office of Her Majesty the Queen.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who attended the opening ceremonies, returned from the United States Thursday.

Founded by Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968, the Special Olympics is the world's largest programme involving more than one million athletes and 500,000 volunteers from 70 nations of year-round sports training and competition in the Olympic tradition which gives mentally retarded children and adults the chance to strengthen their character, develop their physical skills, display their talents and fulfil their human potential.

The 1987 International Summer Special Olympic Games mark the first time that Jordan has been represented, according to the press release. The team consisted of nine athletes and three trainers.

On Sunday, Aug. 2, Queen Noor, accompanied by His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, led the Jordanian team into Notre Dame University's stadium for the opening ceremony.

Six thousand athletes, representing 65 countries, participated

in the evening ceremonies which included a parade of the athletes, performances by stars Whitney Houston, John Denver and Arnold Schwarzenegger, Oscar winners William Hurt and Marlee Matlin, and gold medal Olympic athletes Mary Lou Retton, and Bart Connor, the lighting of the Olympic torch and a grand finale of fireworks.

The ceremonies were attended by two heads of state, the first ladies of ten countries, U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, the governor of Indiana, the mayor of South Bend, international celebrities and over 60,000 spectators.

Earlier in the day, Her Majesty visited the Jordanian athletes at the athletic fields to encourage the team during their warm-up and training session and to present them with gifts.

On Monday, Aug. 3, Queen Noor and Prince Ra'd cheered the Jordanian team during their track and field competition. During this first day of competition, the Special Olympics hosts honoured Her Majesty at a ceremony in which she presented the first gold medal to the winner of the gymnastics events.

While in South Bend, Queen Noor also visited the Expo Centre's special art exhibition by handicapped artists, received the key to the city of South Bend from the mayor, and attended a luncheon honouring the families of the athletes.

On Friday, July 31, U.S. Secretary of State and Mrs. George Shultz hosted a dinner in honour of the Special Olympics. Mr. Shultz received Her Majesty at the U.S. State Department and escorted her to the dinner. Invites included Her Majesty, two heads of state and first ladies from ten countries whose teams were represented at the games and the Special Olympics board of directors.

The 1987 International Summer Special Olympic Games is supported by the U.S. government, private institutions and corporations from around the world and over 16,000 volunteers.

Official competitions include aquatics, track and field, basketball, bowling, gymnastics, soccer, softball and volleyball. Special exhibitions and demonstration sports in road cycling, equestrian events, roller skating, tennis, table tennis, weightlifting, canoeing, team handball, rowing, sailing and synchronised swimming were also held.

ABC-TV's two hour prime time coverage of the Special Olympics Games marks the first time that the mentally handicapped have received special media attention and recognition for their unique courage, their hidden talents, and their unending determination to excel in a world that is only just recognising their strengths, abilities and needs, the press release said.

U.S. delays escorts in Gulf; Iran ends exercises

(Continued from page 1)

Iran, whose naval forces staged their last day of naval manoeuvres code-named "Martyrdom," renewed its threats against the United States.

"Once, long ago, we were not able to sleep because of the fear of America. But now America cannot sleep because of the fear of our basij (volunteers)," Chief Justice Musavi Ardebili said in a Tehran Radio broadcast.

In Bonn, a West German Defence Ministry spokesman said his government might send a naval detachment to the North Atlantic or Mediterranean to free U.S. ships for duty in the Gulf.

Iranian forces rammed the explosives-laden boat into a "hypothetical enemy target" at an undisclosed location in the Gulf, said the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

The agency also said the test-firing of an anti-ship missile was personally ordered by President Ali Khamenei during a visit to the port of Bandar Abbas, on the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran Radio said hundreds of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) fast patrol boats and naval vessels passed in review, accompanied by the first reported fly-past and manoeuvres by the IRGC air force.

Tehran Radio said IRGC

forces test-fired a shore-to-ship missile Thursday. They also practised attacks on shipping with remote-controlled pilotless aircraft and patrol boats packed with explosives.

As the IRGC navy passed by President Khamenei and other leaders in the reviewing ship, fighters shouted "the Persian Gulf is the burial place of Reagan" and "war, war to victory."

All foreign ships and planes were warned to stay away from the areas of operation until 2030 GMT because missiles and shells were being fired.

The missiles involved in the latest Iranian exercises were not described, but Iran is known to have placed Chinese-made Silk-worm anti-ship missile batteries along the strait. The missiles' 80-kilometre range could reach virtually any target in the Hormuz passage.

The three Kuwaiti vessels, the 46,723-tonne Gas King, the 81,283-tonne Sea Isle City and the 79,999-tonne Ocean City, are riding at anchor just outside the strait.

Two were refuelled earlier and escorted through the Gulf, where one of them struck a mine and is still waiting clearance to return. The other was escorted out of the Gulf and is en route to Japan.

Shipping sources, asking not to

be named, said the three tankers moored in the Arabian Sea, some 27 kilometres off the United Arab Emirates ports of Khor Fakkan and Fujairah, were replenished overnight and then moved to a "more isolated" location. They said American captains were already aboard.

Witnesses who saw the convoy-in-waiting on Friday counted four U.S. warships nearby — the cruiser Valley Forge, the missile destroyer Kidd and the missile frigates Crommelin and Jarrett, AP said.

The Iranian manoeuvres had led to a temporary reduction in traffic into the Gulf, but shipping sources said it had returned to normal levels.

Iran said its navy intercepted and searched 13 foreign commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday then let them go after determining they carried no Iraq-bound war material. As usual, the interceptions weren't announced until a day later.

With no incidents reported during the Iranian exercises and shipping trade plying normally, tensions in the Gulf had already appeared to have eased before the Washington announcement of the delay in escort operations.

Mr. Shultz sounded an optimistic note in the face of growing congressional alarm at the prospect of war with Iran on Thursday.

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Peace through dialogue

THE peace plan now being implemented in Sri Lanka has all the markings of a miracle when seen against the background of the nature and course of today's national and international conflicts around the world. The Sri Lankan-Indian peace agreement, which promises to end four years of violence and bloody battles that claimed over 6,000 lives, proved one point very strongly: dialogue is still a powerful instrument, mightier than a thousand tanks, if the parties in a conflict are willing.

The confrontation between the Sinhalese-dominated government in Colombo and the Tamil minority in the north had shown all the signs of being a bitter and prolonged conflict. At times, the conflict threatened to bring about the ridiculous possibility of a war between India, an Asian superpower, and its tiny southern neighbour. Tempers were hot and nerves were taut and it appeared at one stage that the damage was irreparable. But then, as it is evident now, common sense prevailed.

Short of fulfilling the Tamil demand for a separate independent state, the Colombo peace accord appears to have satisfied all the three parties — Sri Lanka, the Tamil rebel leaders and India. For Sri Lanka, it represents several things: a last-minute switch from totally alienating its Tamil population if it was to pursue a military solution; the restoration of its territorial integrity and national unity; and an end to a problem which has been plaguing Sri Lankan governments for several decades.

For the Tamils, who have accused Colombo of discriminatory policies against them, the peace accord answers most of their demands, mainly more autonomous power through a unified provincial government and the acceptance of Tamil as an official language. In addition, the presence of Indian soldiers as guarantors of safety and security in the Tamil heartland ensures for the island's minority protection in the event of a change of mind in Colombo after the rebels have surrendered their arms.

India, with one master stroke, managed several things: it convinced the Tamil rebels to shelve the idea of setting up an independent state in Sri Lanka; it defused threats posed to its internal security by the presence of armed Tamil guerrillas on Indian soil; and it paved the way for a comprehensive solution to a problem which it has been grappling for years. Above all, New Delhi managed to restore its image as a peace-seeker which was damaged badly when its air force violated Sri Lankan air space to drop relief supplies to besieged Tamils in June.

More pertinent to us here in the Arab World, Indian leader Rajiv Gandhi said that the accord showed that the Non-Aligned Movement does not need intervention from world powers to settle its differences. There are voices of dissent within the Sri Lankan Sinhalese community against the peace plan, but a cursory look at them shows that they are mostly coming from the political opposition to the government. We heartily welcome the peace plan and the overnight transformation of the Sri Lankan scene towards peace and hope that all parties to the agreement live up to their commitments.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Greetings to our kinsmen

JORDAN, along with the Islamic World, on Tuesday celebrated 'Eid Al Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) and the people of this country exchanged messages of goodwill and best wishes for a true happiness and a better future. These nice greetings exchanged during the holy occasion help us to forget for some time the painful situation of the Arab World, and yet with these greetings express hope that one day this Arab Nation will rise once again and maintain its greatness among world nations. Our greetings during 'Eid Al Adha reflect our determination not to succumb to despair and our persistence in rejecting defeat and capitulation. These greetings express our adherence to our national pride and our determination to regain Arab Jerusalem which now lies captive in the hands of the Israelis, and to regain all parts of the occupied Arab territory and all the holy places under Israeli rule. The greetings among people serve as evidence that this nation is still confident of success despite the present sadness, grief and defeat. But the best greetings go to the occupied cities of Jerusalem and Hebron and all other parts of the Palestinian land occupied by the Israelis and desecrated by the enemy. The greetings go to the Arab people under Israeli rule with whom we share hope and steadfastness.

Al Dustour: Painful reminders

AS the Arab and Islamic nations celebrate 'Eid Al Adha, the Arab and Islamic lands continue to face one danger after another, and the situation within the Islamic World is far from being satisfying. Perhaps the present situation represents one of the darkest periods of Islamic history. It is hard and painful to witness the coming of 'Eid Al Adha while the Arab and Islamic nations are separated by divisions and disputes and are characterised by weakness. The bloody noting in Mecca, the ongoing Gulf conflict and the continued divisions tend to keep the Arabs and Muslims as deeply divided as ever. The fast moving developments in the Gulf region and the dangers looming in the offing there call for speedy action to avert further tragedies and disasters for the Arab Islamic nations. As we celebrate 'Eid Al Adha (feast of the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the rest of the Palestinian land lie in the hands of the Israeli enemy. For 20 years the Arabs and Muslims have been squabbling over their petty differences, forgetting their duty towards the holy places in the occupied territory. We sincerely hope that the Arabs will wake up from their slumber and forego their internal disputes and concentrate their efforts to end the conflicts in the Gulf and Lebanon and work sincerely to regain their usurped lands.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unity beyond holy places

HUNDREDS of thousands of Muslim pilgrims stood at Mount Arafat near Mecca just before 'Eid Al Adha sending their prayers up to heaven and to God. These worshippers have deep faith in God and adhere to Islam and to the Prophet Muhammad. The gathering at Arafat is a true manifestation of unity among the believers and the faithful, and it is a sort of unity among all Arabs and Muslims. This form of unity and solidarity in religion and in faith should take form outside the boundaries of the holy places and should embody all the Arab and Islamic nations. We want to see Arab and Islamic countries coming together in harmony with no divisions or disputes separating them or different ideologies rendering them apart. This has always been the message of Islam and Mecca and the pilgrimage in the holy city until Islam became plagued by the present regime in Tehran which came to distort religion and brought danger to the Muslim Nation. The Iranian leaders seek to fulfil their own selfish interests which they give priority over the common interests of the Islamic world. The Iranians went to Mecca in order to distort the meaning and the objectives of pilgrimage and to sow dissension in the ranks of the Islamic people. The pilgrims in Arafat and Mecca need time to contemplate the situation, and need determination to help bring about unity within the Arab and Islamic nations, something of which we are in dire need in the face of Zionism and occupation of holy places in Palestinian land.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Fanaticism — Iran and Israel

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

THE EVENTS of last week in Mecca were not only sad but also very tragic. The occasion should have been a happy religious one where the faithful from the four corners of the world meet to pray together in answer to the call for the Hajj, the pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam. 'Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) is the culmination of a happy religious season celebrating God's blessings and beneficence. The exact number of those who perished in the Iranian rioting may never be known. Yet, had only one perished, it would still be a sacrifice, an unnecessary loss of life as well as a terrible precedent.

Why did the Iranian authorities incite the violence? Why this hatred and disdain of the Arabs to the point of desecrating this most holy of the holiest of Islamic shrines? How can the Iranian regime even think of advancing the idea of the "internationalisation" of the holy places in Saudi Arabia at the very time that Israel continues to occupy Jerusalem and is diligently working to take possession of Haram Al Sharif, the noble sanctuary in Jerusalem.

Iran on the east seems to share with Israel on the western part of the Mashreq certain ambitions: ambitions not only of reducing the Arab World and balkanising it, but of literally controlling its destiny. It is not a question of an occupation of real estate, however important or sacred this may be, in as much as it is the stifling of the Arab soul in the middle. The distant strategic goal goes beyond mere military hegemony to the breaking of the spirit and the will of the Arabs and reducing them to fragmented dependencies with no control over their own lives.

Both Iranian and Israeli strategists view the present era as a golden opportunity to achieve these goals. Dispirited and demoralised after the defeat of 1967 and two decades of sliding further into disarray and confusion, the Arabs appear and behave like easy prey for the predators around. In the Mashreq area, Israel seems to do whatever it wants with impunity. The record of the past two decades in Palestine, in Lebanon and elsewhere needs no further elaboration. Israel has developed into an imperial power of the classic type whose major tool is its military might. Its imperialistic behaviour in its colonies in Palestine, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights is calculated to strike terror upon its victims.

Israel too is just like Iran, a nation that lives by the sword and understands only the logic of fanaticism. The breakdown of the concept of Arab national security lies at the root of the behaviour of both. The imagination breaks down in contemplating what would happen if the Iraqi defences were weaker and the Iranian and Israeli hordes were to meet.

At the root of the behaviour of both Iran and Israel is a rare commitment to primeval ideologies based on ancient hatreds and animosities, some real, most imagined. Upon these historically accumulated layers of hatred, a sense of victimisation, of martyrdom, has been superimposed to be topped off by a highly distorted image of superiority born of a religious sense of mission, of a rare strain of fanaticism in the modern age. It is a religious zealotry that

distorts reality causing blindness to logic as well as to the normal rules of behaviour on the individual, national and international levels.

Both ideologies in Iran and Israel feel they have a message, to spread beyond their frontiers: a reachout that is somehow being hampered and thwarted by the Arabs. This shared belief causes both to feel they have a right to do what they want regardless of the niceties of the law whether local, customary or international. Both blame the Arabs for lost glory and national identity. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, among many others in the Bible, speak of ancient animosities at that time already well developed towards the Arabs. Ancient Iran and ancient Israel of the sixth century before the Christian era formed an alliance whose interest was to reduce and control the area and its peoples in the middle. The military vacuum caused by the Arab defeat of 1967 only revived what already lay dormant beneath the surface.

On both sides of the Arab middle the language of absolutes is spoken and why not if those speaking think they have the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Like old Biblical prophets, statements are not statements but thunderous prophecies speaking of eternal truths, immovable objects and immutable logic: "Sad-dam must be toppled," the "holy places will be liberated," says the mullah while the rabbi, says "Jerusalem is the eternal united capital of Israel" and the "temple will be built." And as usual those in the middle, the moderates suffer.

Resurrecting Casey — Iran arms patron or North scapegoat?

By Robert Kearns
Reuter

WASHINGTON — When William Casey died in May, investigators believe the former director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) took to his grave many of the darkest secrets of the Iran arms scandal.

Without his testimony, congressional experts are no closer to resolving the mystery of Casey's role than they were when they began 40 days of public testimony and months of private interviews and poring through thousands of documents.

"It may never be proven," said one member of the Joint House of Representatives-Senate committee probing the Iran-contra scandal. "It's can you believe Oliver North or do you believe everyone else?" Casey can't tell us.

Casey was a master spy in the World War II Office of Strategic Services, predecessor to the CIA that he headed from 1981 until his death. He became one of President Reagan's oldest and most trusted advisers, his campaign manager and confidante.

From the start, he was a key player in the secret sale of U.S. weapons to Iran in 1985-86, endorsing the sales as a way of gaining intelligence contacts in Tehran.

But congressional testimony over the last 12 weeks has raised nagging doubts about his real role, especially in the most damaging act of the drama, the possibly illegal diversion of funds from the arms sale to contra rebels in Nicaragua.

These doubts, brought on by sharply conflicting accounts of what Casey knew and condoned, also pose major credibility problems for former White House aide North.

The marine lieutenant colonel's key defence charges that he acted as a renegade in plotting the sale to Iran and diversion of proceeds to the contras is that he acted with the authority and knowledge of his superiors.

Former National Security Adviser John Poindexter has testified that he accepts responsibility for North's actions.



But in building his case, North has invoked the authority of Casey, not only because the CIA chief was close to Reagan but because he was an experienced millionaire lawyer who presumably would have known what was legal and what was not.

This makes Casey doubly important to North's argument that what he did was sanctioned at the highest level and he acted in the belief he was not breaking any laws.

Before Casey was stricken with a cancerous brain tumour last December, he denied to the presidentially appointed Tower Commission that he knew of the funds diversion. He was never questioned closely.

But the high-ranking associates he left behind have cast major doubts on North's version of events in their testimony before Congress over the past 12 weeks.

On some points, the record is clear. North did have extensive contacts with Casey, a man he portrayed in near reverential terms as a wise, kindly old uncle guiding the 43-year-old marine through the labyrinth of national security

issues and the corridors of power. According to committee investigators, North visited Casey at his Langley, Virginia, headquarters 35 times. Casey also kept an office in the old executive office building next to the White House where North also worked.

This gave North ample opportunity to consult him and add some credence to his claim that the two had what one committee member called a "special relationship."

During one of those meetings last year, North testified, Casey enthusiastically embraced the "neat idea" of sending profits from the Iran arms sales secretly to the contras to keep alive their guerrilla war against their government in Nicaragua at a time when Congress had barred military aid.

North said Casey and he plotted to use leftover funds — there is still some \$5 million in disputed overseas bank accounts — to run "an off-the-shelf" covert operation, unaccountable to other government officials or Congress, in aid of other anti-communist "freedom fighters."

Both men, according to testi-

mony from North and contra leader Adolfo Calero — who fondly remembers Casey as a "Uncle Bill" — shared strong sympathies for the contra cause.

At the time of North's vivid testimony, this all seemed plausible. But then came everyone else involved and to a man they all but called it poppycock.

"The only evidence that this committee has before it that Mr. Casey knew about the diversion was Colonel North's testimony," said Senate Committee Vice Chairman Warren Rudman.

"I just find it curious that the only time we have this statement made is after Mr. Casey is no longer around to discuss it," the New Hampshire Republican said.

Louis Stokes, chairman of the House of Representatives Intelligence committee, which oversees the CIA and who knew Casey well, also says North's account may not add up.

"Poindexter told North not to tell anyone of the diversion," said the Ohio Democrat, "but then we know that North apparently told (former National Security Adviser Robert) McFarlane anyway."

"Then (Attorney General Edwin) Meese said Poindexter told him that no one in the government knew aside from him and North. North testified at that time only he, Poindexter and McFarlane knew. It was not until North broke his silence and testified to Congress that he made his claim that Casey knew."

Meese testified that Casey told him he did not know about the funds diversion.

"I do believe Mr. Casey's statement to me," said Meese, who recalled Casey told him last Nov. 23 that the first he heard of any diversion was when Meese told him. Meese at the time was conducting a fact-finding operation for Reagan.

By Meese's reasoning, Casey had no motive to lie since Meese was not conducting a criminal investigation, the two men were friends and Casey seemed surprised about it all.

At that time, moreover, Casey could have contradicted North, who did not drag his name into it until he testified to Congress after the CIA chief had died.

Tunisian hotel-bombings highlight fundamentalism

By Charles Dick
Reuter

TUNIS — Four hotel bombings which Tunisian authorities suspect were the work of Islamic extremists highlight the growing challenge of fringe Muslim extremists to North African governments, diplomats say.

The bombs on Sunday injured 12 British and Italian holidaymakers and one Tunisian, and were an unprecedented attack on economically hard-pressed Tunisia's vital tourist industry.

Five months ago Tunisia broke diplomatic ties with Iran and announced the discovery of a secret pro-Iranian network which planned to topple the government. A crackdown against one clandestine Islamic opposition party followed.

Although Tunisian authorities have no proof extremists were actually behind Sunday's bombings, diplomats say the existing campaign against fundamentalists will likely be harsher.

But Tunis is not the only government in the region troubled by Islamic fundamentalist groups, and diplomats point out any new action against extremists in Tunisia would follow similar responses in other Maghreb countries.

Last month in Algeria, three of 200 fundamentalists tried on charges including murder and sabotage were sentenced to death.

In Morocco police detained four fundamentalists last month in connection with an alleged call for revolution while King Hassan was visiting Britain.

Political analysts note that fundamentalist movements in the Maghreb recruit their supporters mainly among young people, capitalising on their deep sense of frustration.

More than 60 per cent of the population is under 25, facing a bleak future with poor employment prospects, for which they blame their respective governments.

Tunisia has alternately tight-

ened and relaxed its attitude to

Islamic movements since the 1979 Iranian revolution which brought Ayatollah Khomeini to power.

After breaking ties with Tehran in March, Tunisia moved against the opposition Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI).

Authorities accuse the MTI of belonging to an Iranian-inspired underground fundamentalist network aiming to topple the government. MTI has denied collusion with Iran.

Police have arrested hundreds of members and MTI leader Rachid Ghannouchi, a former philosophy professor. He was arrested during a period of student clashes with police at the University in Tunis, where fundamentalists are active and highly organised.

Defence lawyers say Ghannouchi has not yet appeared before an examining magistrate who will decide whether there is a case against him. The public prosecutor's office has preferred charges against him and other MTI leaders which could mean the death sentence if the case goes to trial and they are convicted.

Tunis has announced its determination to bring members of the alleged network to justice and a pro-government newspaper said this week an expected trial of fundamentalist leaders could take place late this month.

The crackdown on the MTI has sparked a wave of sporadic, sometimes violent anti-government protests by MTI supporters. Diplomats say the protests demonstrate the fundamentalists' ability to reorganise despite the break with Iran and the arrest of at least 250 MTI leaders.

Police have arrested one unidentified suspect in connection with last Sunday's hotel bombings, which symbolically challenged President Habib Bourguiba on the eve of his 84th birthday.

A prominent MTI leader, lawyer Hedi Zemzemi, was also arrested, although he was not explicitly linked with the hotel blasts.

LETTERS

Women in the defence of the country

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to make two things a little more clear about my interview which was published in Jordan Times (Aug. 3, 1987), as I believe there was a misunderstanding about two of my statements. The first is that I do not believe that women can do any job done by men. My belief is that if a woman is capable of going into a certain field or job, and can hold her own, not just to her benefit, but for the benefit of others, then she should have a chance to carry it through. I feel that women are capable of many things, but we are not men, and do not want to be men.

This leads me to the subject of women in the army. To say that women should fight on the frontlines, or even join the Parachute Regiment is wrong, as we are not physically capable of such a thing. The purpose of having women in the army is to use them in places such as administration or communications; jobs such as these which are the essential backbone of the army. They are important and challenging fields, which release more men to serve, and to gain more experience in the field of combat.

I believe that our Armed Forces are in need of eligible women but they should not be regarded as substitutes for men. They can serve and be an important part of the Armed Forces by being the backbone and working where they are needed and where it is suitable for them to be.

Lastly, I am still by all means interested in Jordanian women's issues and would be honoured to offer help and advice to the best of my abilities. We women make up one half of Jordan's society and therefore are needed in many areas. I hope that many of you women will seriously consider the army as an important and challenging future, working with Jordanian men for the defence of our nation.

As a comical side, I would just like to add that much as I enjoyed Sandhurst, I only spent seven months there, as opposed to years, which would probably make me the longest studying officer cadet ever to have attended the British Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Aisha Al Hussein

Pakistani welcome for Afghans is wearing thin

By Oliver Wates
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — The warm welcome given by Pakistan to refugees from Afghanistan's guerrilla war is showing signs of wearing thin.

Criticism of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's Afghan policy doubled in volume after a car-bombing in Karachi last month which killed 73 people.

It was the worst in a series of attacks throughout the country, which Zia has linked to Pakistan's support for the rebels fighting Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government.

Pakistani patience is being strained by growing resentment in bazaars over competition from Afghan traders and fears that the influx of Afghan-linked guns and drugs may break down the social fabric.

"Some people even have the feeling that it could become a second Lebanon," one Asian aid official said. "The security situation is getting worse and worse."

Away from border regions there are few signs of a serious challenge to the basic principles of Zia's policy of offering asylum to refugees and supporting the anti-communist rebels.

Local commentators say he is under increasing pressure from the public to confine the estimated three million Afghan exiles more closely to their camps and restrict their activities.

Senators demanded in a par-

liamentary debate last week that Pakistan take a more active role in seeking a peace settlement with the Kabul government and its Soviet backers.

Opposition leaders accuse Zia of taking advantage of the 1979 Soviet intervention, which they say turned him from a semi-pariah in Western eyes to a valued ally.

"He is not sincere in wanting to resolve the problem," Aftab Sherpao of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) said in an interview. "He's thriving on his Western image. Direct talks or indirect talks, Zia isn't giving it a high enough priority."

The government says it is doing all it can for a settlement. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the critical senators that it was Pakistan's Islamic duty to give shelter to the refugees and besides they were impossible to keep out.

Sherpao is PPP president in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), which has borne the brunt of the Afghan problem.

The main guerrilla groups have their headquarters in its capital, Peshawar, and more than two million refugees live in camps there.

The province has grown used to bomb attacks in the past 18 months, some aimed at rebel offices or supply lines, others apparently indiscriminate in buses or markets.

Pakistani officials blame Kabul for the blasts, saying it is trying to

spread unrest and put pressure on Islamabad to stop funneling arms to the guerrillas. The Soviet-backed Afghan government denies any connection.

As a result, hostility to Zia's Afghan policy is greatest in NWFP, despite the fact that the inhabitants are Pashtuns, closely related to most of the refugees and guerrillas.

When a bomb outside a rebel office killed several Pakistani children in February, local people shot at the guerrillas and set fire to their cars.

In recent months the bombings have spread to influential Punjab province, setting Zia a much more serious problem.

Local authorities responded to the bombings in Rawalpindi and Lahore by removing thousands of Afghans living illegally in the cities, but they failed to catch the bombers.

Kabul swiftly rebuked Zia for linking the July 14 blasts in Karachi to his government's Afghan policy.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, however, said responsibility might lie with Pakistan's traditional enemy, India.

Western diplomats said Pakistan had so many violent rivalries that at least some of the bombings might have a different authorship entirely.

"It is definitely going to get worse," Sherpao said. "First it was confined to tribal areas, then the cities of NWFP, then the tentacles reached Rawalpindi,

Lahore, and finally Karachi."

Discontent over the presence of the Afghans is growing but violent incidents have been rare. Last month, Afghan guerrillas became involved in a tribal feud in a remote part of NWFP, in which at least 45 people were killed.

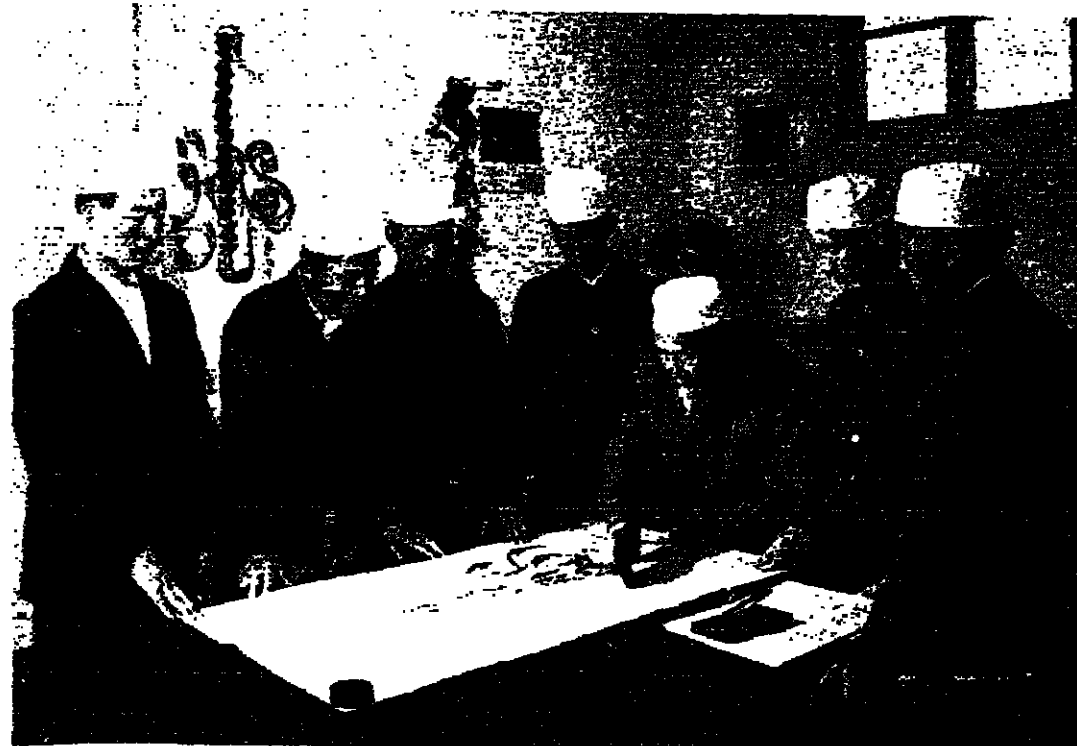
Afghans have been seeking political asylum in Pakistan since long before the communist takeover in 1978. The big influx was in 1981-82, creating the world's biggest refugee problem.

Most of the refugees stay in or near their camps not far from the border, but little serious effort is made to prevent the more enterprising from moving out.

Many have set up trading, transport or bazaar business in other parts of the country, competing successfully with the locals. The flow of Western and Arab aid to the rebel groups has inflated prices, especially rents, in NWFP and the other border province of Baluchistan.

"These Afghans should be kept in camps," a clerk in the western city of Quetta said. "They make everything expensive. If you can pay 400 rupees for a house, they can pay 1,200."

Aid workers say they have to be careful to avoid raising living standards in the camps above those of the often needy local population. This sometimes means providing health care, education and water for local people, too.



Mu Yilan, an established calligrapher, passes on the technique of writing in Arabic to his students of the Hui nationality. On the wall is a piece of brush work by Mu.

Minority calligraphy in mostly Muslim region of China

By Wu Guoqing

PAINTING and calligraphy, long a tradition in China's predominantly Muslim region of Ningxia, is gaining popularity with local amateurs. Their daily activity of painting and writing, as recreation, is "a new rush in recent years," says Mu Yilan, 83, President of the Islamic Association of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. "It is helpful to people's minds and bodies."

Mu is also an established calligrapher. He adds, "It is a tradition for Muslim in Ningxia to hang certain pictures and calligraphy works on their walls, to help them to pray for peace and good luck. However, the Huis are different from the Hans in that they usually do not hang pictures of animals or human beings, showing their eyes. It is a custom as well as a religious canon."

Influenced by their Muslim religion, people of the Hui nationality in Ningxia like to hang

Arabic calligraphy in their homes. These are mostly sacred teachings from the Holy Koran.

But the Hui people also speak Mandarin and read Chinese, and many are quite good at writing Chinese characters. Mu says the creation of their art is not always restricted by their Muslim conventions: "There are Islamic families who hang photos of figures, with their big eyes open, staring at the room."

There is also a wide interest in different styles of art. A poll in 1986 showed that 80 per cent of the young workers, and 60 per cent of the retired veterans in Yinchuan city, the capital of the region, hoped to enrich their cultural life through the discovery of the beauty of art. Signs proclaiming many organisations, such as "Ningxia Institute of Painting and Calligraphy," "Society of Standard Handwriting," "Pen Writing Association," and "Society of Painting and Calligraphy of Senior Citizens" can be seen on

many of the streets in the capital. To meet the demand of eager art students at all levels, the government's cultural departments and private organisations have sponsored various training classes. The result has been a popularisation of the art of painting and calligraphy.

The Cultural Centre of Longde County has offered art classes to over-200 peasants in the past few years. Last year, the peasant artists held an exhibition in Yinchuan. Their works, although simple and unadorned, have won the entire county the nickname of "Home of Painting and Calligraphy."

Many residents buy this local art. Wang Chuliang, 38, a farmer in Youyicun Village, a suburb of Yinchuan, built a two-story house with the money he and his wife earned from raising chickens. They bought mountains-and-water paintings to decorate their living room. "We are educated youths," says Wang. "We like to amuse ourselves with pieces of art."

This rush for art has promoted many artistic undertakings in Ningxia. Estimates put the number of professional painters and calligraphers at 300, and over-10,000 art enthusiasts in Ningxia at present.

Several hundred works of Ningxia artists have been shown, both at home and abroad, in the past three years. Last year, Han Rui, a nine-year-old pupil in Yinchuan, won a prize in a National Children's Painting Exhibition. Guo Jiarong, 35, won first prize in a national calligraphy contest, out of 30,000 entries.

Wang Yuxin, 50, a Hui peasant woman in Longde County, couldn't even write her own name before she took up her artistic studies. With the help of the county's painters, she learned to write and to paint. Her painting, "Countryside Gathering," has been purchased by China's National Art Gallery and sent abroad as part of a show. The multi-coloured painting vividly reflects a happy celebration by villagers.

Zhen Xinfu, an established painter, sees certain characteristics in the art of Ningxia: "The pictures are colourful and splendid. The composition is full and round — with a touch of daily life and religious tradition." — China features.



Passers-by are attracted by the public performance of Ningxia painters

JTV Channel Two Preview

Sat. — Aug. 8, 1987

8:30 Together We Stand

9:00 Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film

Convicted

Sun. — Aug. 9, 1987

8:30 Growing Pains

9:10 Intimate Contact Part Two

The Gregory family continue to be ostracised in the second episode of Central's drama. The family begins to adjust to the consequences of Clive's disease, but, at home, life is not easy. Everyone is trying to find a way of coping with the situation, but family life has broken down. The Gregory children now know their father has AIDS, and they respond in their own ways.

10:20 Hunter

11:10 Are You Being Served?

Mon. — Aug. 10, 1987

8:30 Throb

9:10 Mussolini

10:20 Goya (Episode 6)

The sixth and last episode recounts Goya's last four years in Spain. Retired to his villa La Quinta del Sordo, he seems at first to recover peace of mind and finishes the series of etching cal-

led the Disasters of War.

11:10 The Love Boat

Tue. — Aug. 11, 1987

8:30 Double Trouble

A BAD MIX: When Kate concocts a dangerous scheme to correct an experiment gone wrong, it serves to confirm Allison's initial reservations over permitting her sister to take her place for "one" day of chemistry class.

9:10 Ohara

10:20 The Unknown War

11:10 Open All Hours

Wed. — Aug. 12, 1987

8:30 Three's a Crowd

9:10 Doc. — The Silk Road

Khotan-oasis of silk and jade: Stones from the Hetian have been a tempting bargain of the Silk Road trades ever since ancient times. Hetian is still famous for its stones. The programme will take a detailed look at the precious stones. At the same time, we will attempt to paint a portrait of silk-related culture, looking at such items as the famous painted panel, the "Silk Princess."

10:20 Best Seller

The Wheels (Last Part)

Thurs. — Aug. 13, 1987

8:30 My Husband and I



Anastasia — Anna (Amy Irving) with Dr. Hauser (Edward Fox) (Friday 10:20 p.m.)

9:10 Rags to Riches

10:20 Feature Film Soldier Blue

Starring: Candice Bergen and Peter Strauss

A paymaster's detachment of the U.S. Cavalry is attacked by Indians seeking gold, and two white

survivors trek through the desert.

Fri. — Aug. 14, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Anastasia Part 2

With her expenses paid by

Serge's newspaper, Anna arrives in New York to a warm welcome. Wearing borrowed furs and jewellery, Anna is introduced into Manhattan's high society. A dazzling party is thrown in her honour by exiled Russian aristocrats. Darya, a former friend of the Tsar's family, recognises Anna as Anastasia. With the exclusive story on the Russian princess, the circulation figures of Serge's newspaper soar.

Malaysia's snake king puts cobra on the menu

By Roger May

Reuter

JINJANG, Malaysia — Chan Meng is just the man to contact if you find one of Malaysia's many poisonous snakes in your kitchen and want it removed.

He is also invaluable if you want to cook it and impress your dinner guests with succulent cobra.

Malaysia's best known snake catcher, Chan lives, eats and sleeps the slithering reptiles.

His home contains over 1,000 snakes in wooden and plastic boxes as well as snake photographs, snake skins and skeletons, stuffed snakes and jars of snake innards marinating in wine.

Members of Malaysia's six-million-strong Chinese community regularly visit him and consume cobras' gall bladders and blood mixed with wine in the hope of curing ailments ranging from rheumatism and asthma to paralysis.

He will also prepare cobra, regarded as a health-giving delicacy by Malaysian Chinese, for the dinner table, using a recipe that calls for the reptile to be simmered in herbs for five hours.

Muslim Malays, who make up the majority of the country's 16 million population, are banned by their religion from eating snakes.

Chan, 44, respects his snakes and does not enjoy killing them.

"I do not like to kill snakes, but if people need medical help, I will," he told Reuters in his modest home in the Chinese-dominated town of Jinjang, some 15 kilometres from Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Married, with six children, who unconcernedly dotes snake paraphernalia while doing his homework, Chan said he learned his trade from his father-in-law, who in turn picked it up from relatives on his native south China island of Hainan.

Chan began work on construction sites but with Malaysian property development slack in the 1960s, he decided his future lay in snakes.

"I caught my first snake in 1965 but it bit me," he recalled.

The bite was the first of many and the hands and legs of the short, stocky Chan are covered with tang marks.

Eschewing anti-venom serum, he cures himself by cleansing the wound, sucking out the poisoned blood, applying a tight bandage and then swallowing a teaspoonful of brown Chinese herbal medicine every two hours for the next day.

But he does supply venom to researchers, including Tan Nget Hong of the University of Malaya's biochemistry department, who says snake innards may indeed have the curative qualities that traditional Chinese medicine attributes to them.

Tan points out that steroid compounds are used to treat illnesses such as skin problems and asthma and that animal gall bladders collect steroid products.

Chan himself has caught around 50 of the 1,000 snakes lounging in his back garden and living room, mostly following phone calls from people living in the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur or the state of Selangor

Europe's television is fun, fun and fun

WESTERN European governments of all political flavours used to believe that television was best kept under their control. They did not want privately owned television stations to broadcast freely to the masses. And they guarded their monopoly by using the (largely specious) argument that airwaves are scarce, so if each country can have only a couple of television channels, then they had better be kept under the beady eye of the state.

The advent of internationally delivered satellite television in Europe in 1982, which governments could not regulate, made them think again. They did not want uncontrollable foreign channels satisfying the hunger for more television. Or so it seems, for they hurriedly "discovered" more spare frequencies that were suitable for television and started licensing private channels — or planned to do so.

A few years ago, Britain and Italy were the only countries in Europe with privately owned television. Now, all over the continent, private channels are springing up. France already has three privately owned stations. West Germany, Denmark and Spain will start up private or partly private channels in the next couple of years. Satellite and cable television are also spreading across Europe, although the new terrestrial broadcast channels will probably soak up much of the demand for them.

The revolution in European television still has a long way to go. But the threat of deregulation and financial pressures on state broadcasters have meant that Western Europe's television stations are already fighting for audiences. This has affected the kinds of programme on offer.

People gather in their largest numbers to watch escapist entertainment. According to a recent study by Horizons Media International, the main shift in programming over the past few years has been towards more "fun-TV". Entertainment — that is, films, soap operas, games and chat shows — is becoming a priority for private-sector channels; satellite television stations, such as Mr. Rupert Murdoch's Sky Channel, and Super Channel (which is largely owned by Britain's commercial broadcasters) show little else. Light-hearted imports from America are also on the increase (from 15 per cent in 1985 to 20 per cent last year), partly because they are cheap.

Government-owned television channels usually have no direct incentive to please the crowds. Yet they too are showing a higher proportion of pure entertainment programmes. An analysis of schedules by Horizons Media International shows an increase in entertainment programmes on non-commercial channels from 43 per cent in 1985 to 46 per cent last year. The only countries to buck this trend are those that do not yet have privately owned channels — such as Norway and Spain. Both are due to have private channels within the next two years. For now, their programmes still tend to be worthy: news, documentaries, religious affairs. Entertainment is restricted to under 35 per cent and Norway's high-spot of the year seems to be the Eurovision song contest.

Although commercial stations tend to show more light programmes, and the public sector is catching up, there are some anomalies. Britain is a special case, because a government quango,

the Independent Broadcasting Authority, governs the two commercial channels and demands "balanced broadcasting". One of these channels, Channel 4, has a far larger proportion of serious programmes (58 per cent, compared with just 8 per cent for Mr. Silvio Berlusconi's Italia 1) than other European commercial channels. The non-commercial BBC1, on the other hand, seems to be run on the presumption that its first mission is to entertain (it shows 64 per cent entertainment at peak-viewing hours). SAT-1, a satellite station in West Germany, has an unusually large number of serious programmes. Most other satellite stations are about 90 per cent fun. SAT-1 is owned by a consortium of newspaper publishers: its emphasis is on news and current affairs.

Until recently, the two main protagonists in Italian television, the government-owned RAI networks and the channels owned by Mr. Berlusconi, fought one another for audiences by dishing up as much entertainment as possible. Now RAI-1 has adopted a more dignified strategy. It cut its proportion of fun-TV by a third in 1985-86 and is coming up with more serious programmes on current events or subjects such as science and farming. But RAI's two other stations are showing more entertainment than ever.

Will an increased emphasis on entertainment mean that quality programmes, including those on the arts, get squeezed out? Not necessarily. Fun-TV comes cheap, yet once the new private channels start to build up audiences, they may have the money and the confidence to show more high-brow stuff. But do not bet on it — The Economist.

Cairo fights uphill battle against pollution

By Esmat Salaheddin

Reuter

CAIRO — Cairo's fumes-spewing cars, buses and trucks translate into this disquieting fact: Traffic policemen in the city centre have nearly three times more exhaust poisons in their blood than international norms. They are victims of polluted air which, experts say, is increasingly harmful to health despite official efforts to cut effluent from vehicles, factories and garbage dumps.

The government is worried about the problems of pollution in the Arab World's largest city, and is trying to do something about it. But the task is daunting.

An underground railway system is due for inauguration in late September and authorities hope it will reduce the numbers of cars and buses belching smoke on the roads.

Numerous flyovers help motorists negotiate old bottlenecks, enabling vehicles to move faster and burn fuel more efficiently. A new billion-dollar sewage system is being built.

Environmentalists are planning to form a "Green" party for ecologists. Small pressure groups such as the "Tree Lovers Society" are on the increase.

But this ancient, crowded city of 14 million headstrong individuals, resistant to the best-laid official plans, still suffers from chronic pollution from traffic, in-

dustrial and inadequate sanitation. A perpetual pall of dust hangs over the city, reinforced occasionally by a heavy dose of wind-blown desert sand.

Driving south along the Nile, one sees a cloud of pollution over houses and fields from cement works in the industrial suburb of Helwan.

They use inefficient filters or none at all, say officials of the government's two-year-old watchdog Environmental Affairs Agency.

"The cement factories discharge huge amounts of dust every day," said environmentalist Yaser Barudi in a recent magazine article. "The amounts might reach up to five per cent of their total production."

Unless it rains — and it doesn't rain often in Helwan — these tonnes of cement dust are visible all over the area's foliage, buildings and roads.

The rate of bronchitis or asthma has noticeably increased, especially among children, in the Helwan area in recent years because of cement dust in the air, said a local doctor.

The Environmental Agency has contracted a local firm to develop a filter.

The agency also hopes to tackle traffic pollution by using monitoring devices and refusing licences to vehicles that pour out too much carbon monoxide, nitrogen and other toxic gases.

Its director, Mohamedi Sayed

Eid, told Reuters the scheme would start next year for private cars.

But the problem is immense. There are over a million vehicles in Cairo and experts say more than 90 per cent of them discharge more exhaust fumes than the internationally-accepted volume.

A study by American and Egyptian specialists, in the agency's magazine Development and Environment, reported that Cairo traffic police, with three times more toxic substances in their blood than the average elsewhere, risked heart and respiratory trouble.

Their blood contained up to 50 milligrams per cubic centimetre of lead, compared with an international average of 20, the study said.

Cairo is largely a concrete-and-brick city, afflicted by limited space and unlicensed construction on cultivable land. Old trees are sometimes chopped down, despite rules imposing stiff fines or three months in jail for tree-cutting.

"The amount of green space per head is only a few square centimetres (inches)," says the Environmental Agency's five-year plan, comparing this with up to 15 square metres per head in some industrial countries.

The government is building new cities in desert areas which will eventually relieve population pressures in the capital.

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Egypt's soccer team slips into semis

Nigerian athletes get off to a flying start in sprints at All Africa Games

NAIROBI (R) — African champions Egypt, humbled in a 2-1 defeat by lowly Malawi, slipped gratefully into the semi-finals of the All Africa Games soccer tournament Thursday night by a single goal.

Egypt survived because Ivory Coast beat Senegal 1-0 when they needed to win by two clear goals to push the Egyptians out.

Malawi, the pre-tournament underdogs, went through at the top of the group on goal difference ahead of Egypt after all three teams finished with four points.

The failure of two teams to score gave Egypt a fillip in the hockey tournament where their main rivals Kenya and Zimbabwe drew 0-0 leaving the Egyptians one point clear at the top of the table.

In the swimming pool next door to the soccer stadium the

Egyptian men picked up another two gold medals but the North African dominance was finally broken by Zimbabwean Joanne Dorwood who won the women's 100 metres breaststroke.

The watching Egyptian soccer squad celebrated their qualification on the touchline after the Ivory Coast-Senegal match in which Sekou Bamba scored the only goal in the last minute of the game.

Malawi will now play Kenya and Cameroon will meet Egypt in a clash of Africa's soccer giants for a place in the final. Egypt beat Cameroon 5-4 on penalties in the Africa Nations Cup final last

year. Egypt had beaten Ivory Coast 2-1 and Senegal 1-0 in earlier Group B games while Malawi had lost 1-0 to Ivory Coast and beaten Senegal 2-0.

Dorwood's win brought Zimbabwe its first gold of the games. But the North Africans maintained their control in the pool with Tunisia leading the overall medals table with nine golds to Egypt's eight.

Dorwood won the women's 100 metres breaststroke in a games record time of one minute 21.42 seconds. In the same race the veteran Nigerian Ngozi Enwuozo captured the bronze to claim her country's — and black Africa's first swimming medal.

Their achievements aside, Tunisia and Egypt kept up their neck-and-neck rivalry by winning two golds apiece. Ghattas Fatten, the star of the

women's competition, collected her third individual gold for Tunisia in the 100 metres butterfly, also setting a games record of one minute 06.68 seconds.

But Egypt's men had the last word, storming home first in the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay in three minutes 39.25 seconds.

The talent-studded athletics programme at the games began Friday with the immediate promise of top class performances in the sprints.

Nigeria, who reckon they can monopolise the sprint golds, got off to a flying start in the women's 100 metres heats which opened the six-day competition.

But the Kenyan girls gave them plenty to worry about over 400 metres, winning all three heats to the joy of a sparse audience in the new Kasarani Stadium which included Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

Pullouts threaten to spoil centenary match

LONDON (R) — Argentine World Cup-winning captain Diego Maradona will play for a rest of the world side against the English Football League Saturday, his management firm said Thursday night.

A spokeswoman for the First Artist Management Company said Maradona would play in the match at Wembley to mark the English Football League's centenary and was expected to fly to London from Italy Saturday.

Maradona's appearance had been in jeopardy as he took up pre-season training with his Napoli side only a week ago and was unsure whether he would be fit enough for the match.

But he scored for Napoli during the club's pre-season friendly on Wednesday and told journalists he felt fit.

England soccer captain Bryan Robson leads the league side. He said on Thursday: "Maradona is the world's outstanding footballer and I want him to play — he is important to the occasion and will provide some genius on the day."

However, the news that the less than charismatic Dragan Sto-

jkovic is the latest recruit will do little to glamourise Saturday's ill-fated centenary "celebration" match between the English Football League and a Rest of the World XI.

The original idea was to bring together the best players from the First Division — irrespective of nationality — and the top names from abroad to mark the 100th anniversary of league football in England.

But, until Friday, players and public alike have viewed the so-called Wembley spectacular with disinterest and with doubts surrounding the availability of Diego Maradona, only 40,000 tickets have been sold.

That figure compares badly with the 80,000 sell-out crowd which the Los Angeles Rams and the Denver Broncos will attract at Wembley 24 hours later when they stage a pre-season American football exhibition game.

For a variety of highly plausible reasons, Dutchmen Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, Mexican Hugo Sanchez, Spaniard Emilio Butragueno and even England

stalwart Terry Butcher, now based in Scotland with Glasgow Rangers, are all unable to represent the "rest" of the world.

Though Michel Platini has been persuaded to come out of retirement for the occasion — and despite the fact Red Star Belgrade captain Stojkovic is rated the "best player in Yugoslavia" by the match sponsors — it is the possible absence of Maradona which has been the telling factor at the box office.

The Argentine has apparently demanded and been promised over 1,000 sterling (\$1,600) a minute for his contribution and that "fee" — coupled with the infamous "hand of god" incident against England in the World Cup in Mexico last summer — could make him a highly unpopular little figure on the terraces.

Managed by Barcelona's English coach Terry Venables, the rest of the world have at least been guaranteed the services of the Catalan club's prolific goalscorer Gary Lineker and exciting Spanish international defender Julio Alberto.

Hearn said to have dropped light heavyweight title

NEW YORK (AP) — American Thomas Hearn wants to be the World Boxing Council's (WBC) middleweight champion, not its light heavyweight champion.

Responding to a WBC ultimatum, Emanuel Steward, Hearn's manager-trainer, told the Associated Press by telephone from Detroit, "Tommy has definitely given up the light heavyweight title. We already assumed it was known."

It already had been announced that Hearn would try to become the first man to win four titles by fighting Juan Domingo Roldan for the vacant WBC middleweight Oct. 29 at Las Vegas, Nevada.

On Wednesday, the WBC announced in Mexico City that a Hearn-Roldan match would not be sanctioned unless Hearn relinquished the light heavyweight title.

"The only thing he's interested in is going for that fourth title," Steward said, adding he would send a telegram to the WBC.

Hearn, a former World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight and former WBC super welterweight champion, won the WBC light heavyweight title by stopping Dennis Andries of Britain in the 10th round March 7 at Detroit.

The WBC middleweight title became vacant when Sugar Ray Leonard retired after upsetting Marvelous Marvin Hagler on a 12-round split decision April 6 at Las Vegas.

Hagler had been the undisputed champion, but the WBA stripped Hagler before the fight, and the International Boxing Federation (IBF) declared the title vacant after Leonard won.

Should Hearn make history by beating Roldan — there have been nine triple champions — he would be interested in challenging undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, Steward said.

"He believes that if Tyson hasn't been beaten in 15 months he has the style to beat him," Steward said. "I said, 'are you

kidding.' But he said he could get up to 195-200 pounds. He does have the frame to do it."

The 6-foot-1 (1.85-metre) Hearn weighed 173.75 pounds (78.7 kg), 134 pounds (60.7 kg) under the limit, when he won the light heavyweight title. The middleweight limit is 160 pounds (72.5 kg), while the welterweight limit is 147 (66.5) and the super welterweight limit 154 (69.7).

As for defending the middleweight title, should he beat Roldan, Steward said: "He only wants to defend against Hagler. He wants that fight so bad he can taste it."

Then Steward thought of another middleweight challenger Hearn would readily accept — Leonard.

Hagler knocked out Hearn in the third round of title defence June 15, 1985. In his only other loss, Hearn was stopped by Leonard in the 14th round of a fight for the undisputed welterweight championship Sept. 16, 1981.

Australia remains opposed to sporting contacts with S. Africa

SYDNEY, Australia (Agencies) — Australian Rugby Union (ARU) Executive Director John Dedrick on Friday denied claims by Australian captain David Coney that the rugby union gave in to government blackmail by halting a rugby tour of South Africa.

Coney and former Australian captain Andrew Slack are in Johannesburg, South Africa. Coney said Thursday that about 30 top Australian rugby players were "desperately keen" to tour South Africa.

Coney said the Australian Rugby Union was coerced by the Australian government into rejecting an official tour of South

Africa. "We are not going to bow down to coercion, so we are here to find a way around it," Coney told reporters in Johannesburg.

Slack accused the Australian government of using blackmail to force the ARU not to sanction a tour by threatening to block funds if approval was given.

"The criticism by Coney and Slack is ill-informed and definitely incorrect," Dedrick said.

"Our grant from the government is a small matter compared with the well-being of the game here."

"We are more concerned for the future of the 180,000 players

in Australia than of 30 elite or gifted players," he said.

Dedrick said it was disappointing Coney and Slack were so ill-informed.

"There is no way the ARU would let a grant from the government influence our policy," he said.

Both the ARU and the Australian government are opposed to sporting contacts with South Africa because of that country's policy of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

Dedrick added, "we hope they act in what is in the best interest of Australian rugby and not be swept away by what is just in South Africa's interest."

The ARU has threatened to ban for life any player making an unofficial tour of South Africa, which is what local commentators believe Coney and Slack are trying to negotiate.

South Africa

Meanwhile South African Rugby Union has been thrown into turmoil by the disclosure that top Australian players are eager to

Gompert, McNeil reach Virginia Slims quarterfinals

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Top-seeded Lori McNeil and number 2 Kate Gompert both reached the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of San Diego while four unseeded players also advanced Thursday in the \$75,000 women's tennis tournament.

McNeil, ranked 11th in the world, struggled early as she lost her first set but rebounded to oust Peanut Louie Harper, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

Later, in a duel highlighted by hard-hitting and long rallies, the 20th-ranked Gompert mounted a 6-4, 6-2 triumph over England's Sara Gomer, who had beaten Gompert at Wimbledon this year.

Entering the third round Thursday, nine of the 14 seeded players were already out of the tournament. Another was then eliminated when unseeded Anne Minter of Australia recorded an upset win over number 7 Terry Phelps, 7-5, 6-3.

Among the other unseeded players to advance, all had earlier upset wins, but they were ranked higher than their respective opponents in the third round.

Ely Hakami qualified with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over veteran Betsy Nagelsen. The first set was tied 5-5 before Hakami took control with a service break.

Also, two Frenchwomen won as Isabelle Demongeot topped Patricia Tarabini, 7-5, 6-0, and Nathalie Herremann beat Maria Lindstrom, 6-4, 7-6.

Others reaching the quarterfinals among the seeded players were number 3 Raffaella Reggi of Italy, who dispatched fellow countrywoman Laura Garrone, 6-0, 6-0, and number 8 Nathalie Tauziat, who outplayed Kathleen Horvath, 6-3, 6-1.

For McNeil, the ability to establish her style of charging the net contributed to her comeback and a third straight win over Louie Harper, rated 85th.

Mansell sets record in first practice race on Hungaroring

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Britain's Nigel Mansell set a lap record as he took the provisional pole position after Friday's first timed practice session for the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Mansell, in a Williams-Honda, was timed in 1 minute, 28.047 seconds over the 4.014-kilometre Hungaroring, 20 kilometres north of the Hungarian capital. He averaged 164.121 kmph.

There is another official qualifying session on Saturday. If Mansell does gain the top spot for Sunday's race, it will be his seventh pole position of nine races this year.

Alain Prost of France, the two-time world Formula One champion, raced a 1:30.156 to finish second in the qualifying for Sunday's race.

Prost is still seeking his record 28th Grand Prix victory. He tied Britain's Jackie Stewart at 27 in the third race of the season but is winless in five attempts after that.

Michele Alboreto of Italy in a Ferrari was third in qualifying with Thierry Boutsen next. Their times were 1:30.472 and 1:30.748 respectively.

Defending champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil followed with 1:30.842.

Rojas takes on Laci for WBC super-flyweight title

MIAMI (R) — Undeclared Jesus Rojas of Colombia takes his first shot at a title when he faces World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight champion Santos Laci of Argentina in a scheduled 12-round bout on Saturday.

Rojas, who was nicknamed "Sugar Baby" at birth by his parents and has carried the name into the ring, comes from a family with strong boxing ties.

His father was a boxer. His seven brothers are all boxers — one is fighting on the Rojas-Laci bill — and one of his three sisters has done some boxing.

But Saturday night in Miami's Tamiami Fairground he will be the first Rojas to try for a title. "It will be like all of us are fighting," Rojas said.

Laci, 27, has stopped 49 opponents during a career spanning 65 wins, six losses and 11 draws and has not lost a fight since 1981.

Twice World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion, he has won all his 10 fights since moving up to the 52-kg division in 1985.

"I feel better at this weight," Laci said. "At flyweight I was giving up some strength to make the weight."

This will be his first defence of the super-flyweight title he won when he stopped Gilberto Roman of Mexico in the 11th round last May in France.

Rojas, although only two years younger than Laci, has fought far fewer bouts.

But the Colombian, who has a reputation for well-rounded, craftsman-like boxing, is undefeated in all 30 and has won 18 inside the distance.

Laci is unimpressed. "I am a fighter," he said. "I've had 82 professional fights, 15 for titles. I've fought better fighters than Rojas has."

Archrivals seek to restore reputation at Pan-Am Games

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Archrivals the United States and Cuba will seek to restore reputations tarnished by the shame of scandal when the 10th Pan-American Games open on Sunday.

A possible long jump world record by Carl Lewis and explosive confrontations between the two nations in boxing, wrestling, weightlifting and baseball should dispel the shadow of the 1983 drugs scandal and make the multi-million-dollar sporting extravaganza a success.

Four years ago, the traditional giants of the two-week games returned home with heads bowed in disgrace after a succession of drugs-related incidents rocked the Caracas Games.

Four Cubans and two Americans were among 17 competitors — 10 of them medalists — disqualified for using banned substances.

A further 12 Americans withdrew from the games for what they said were personal reasons and left Venezuela before they could be tested.

Eight other leading nations, Canada and Argentina included, had competitors disqualified in the affair.

Ivory Coast supporters weave magic spell at All Africa Games

NAIROBI (R) — Ivory Coast's five-strong supporters club, who cheer on their country with drums, a home-made klaxon on wheels and songs to a tropical tree, are adding a touch of African magic to the Fourth All Africa Games.

Their guttural incantations "oueeeh, oueeeh, oueeeh" and the throbbing beat of their drums have echoed across the football pitch, the handball court and every venue at which Ivory Coast teams have been present.

The inimitable five, who wear tropical raincoats painted in the national colours of orange, white and green, go under the cumbersome French name of comite d'animation de soutien aux équipes nationales sportives du Cote d'Ivoire (support committee for Ivory Coast national sports teams) or "CASENCI" for short.

"In fact, there are fifty of us at home but only five of us came to these games," group president Emile Gnahoulou said.

Emile handles the group's piece de resistance, an impressive home-made air klaxon on wheels which is strenuously hand pumped to full pressure before it releases its ear-splitting blast.

Troupe Paul, the group's flag bearer and treasurer, is also the

main vocalist and spectators have come to recognise his deafening cries of "oueeeh, oueeeh" as a sure sign that the Ivory Coast, whose national symbol is the elephant, is playing. "It's a war cry, it drives on our elephants," Emile said.

Troupe Paul wears an Ivorian squirrel skin on his topee which he says has a special significance. "The squirrel is considered one of the strongest animals in our country, so it means that our teams are the strongest," he explains.

Drissa Traore, the drummer, Odio Hilaire, and Bakouini Josef are the other members of the group, whose honorary leader is Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

Among their repertoire of catchy songs in praise of the nation and its president, the group has one which implores the aid of a tropical tree, known as the "ziza", which grows in Ivory Coast's western forests.

"The ziza is strong enough to resist tornadoes, so we implore its help so our teams can be as strong," Drissa says.

Even the group's eye-catching headgear has a special purpose. "They are for our protection. When the other side's crowd hear us singing, they start throwing things," Emile said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WBA sanctions middleweight title fight

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Boxing Association (WBA) has sanctioned an Oct. 10 fight in Italy between Iran Burkley and Sambu Kalambay for its vacant middleweight title, promoter Bob Arum has announced. The title became vacant when the WBA stripped Marvelous Marvin Hagler before his 12-round split decision loss to Sugar Ray Leonard April 6 at Las Vegas, Nevada. The fight contracts call for the winner to make his first defence against Hagler early next year, should Hagler wish to fight again.

U.S. Congress okays Olympic coins bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives banking committee has approved a bill authorising the minting of one million gold and 10 million silver commemorative coins to raise funds for the U.S. Olympic Committee for the 1988 Olympic Games. Each five-dollar gold coin would contain 0.24 ounces of gold. The one-dollar silver coin would have 0.77 ounces of silver. Prices will be set by the treasury department and will include a surcharge of \$35 for the gold coin and \$7 for the silver coin. Sales of the coins are expected to make a profit of \$105 million, which will go to the U.S. Olympic Committee to help train American athletes for the 1988 games in Calgary, Canada and Seoul, South Korea.

"Do not blame Maradona" — England captain

LONDON (R) — England soccer captain Bryan Robson has publicly excused Diego Maradona for his infamous "hand of god" goal in last year's World Cup finals in Mexico. Robson, who leads the English Football League in their centenary match at Wembley on Saturday against a rest of the world side scheduled to include Argentina's captain, said Thursday: "I don't blame Maradona for that goal." Maradona's controversial goal, which he subsequently described as being scored by the "hand of god" helped Argentina to beat England 2-1 in their quarter-final. Robson said: "He tried to get away with what he could. I blame the referee, because a top class official should not miss something like that in such an important game. You cannot expect Maradona to turn round and say 'I handled the ball, don't give a goal.'"

Francis signs for Scottish champs

LONDON (R) — Former England striker Trevor Francis has signed for Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers after long negotiations to bring him back from Italy, the club said. Francis, whose career has been dogged by injury, moves from Italy's Atalanta for an unconfirmed transfer fee of £75,000 (\$118,000) and will be paid on match-by-match basis.

Welsh midfielder signs for Aberdeen

LONDON (R) — Welsh international midfielder Peter Nicholas signed for Aberdeen on Thursday for £350,000 (\$550,000), the Scottish Premier Division club said. Nicholas, 27, said he was said to leave English First Division side Luton. "But Aberdeen could offer me European football and that was what tipped the balance," he said. English soccer clubs have been barred from European competitions since rioting at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels resulted in the deaths of 39 fans. Aberdeen will play in the European Football Union (UEFA) Cup in the coming season.

Spanish clubs can shuffle foreign players

MADRID (R) — Spanish soccer clubs can exploit a loophole in the rule restricting them to two foreign players each by changing their combination of foreigners from match to match, the Spanish Football Federation said Friday. Teams will be able to field any two of the foreign players on their books provided they give the federation 48 hours' notice, a spokesman told Reuters. He said that what looked like a new rule was only a new interpretation of a clause on foreigners which has been in the federation's rules since 1978 and also applies to games in Europe. A Spanish sports newspaper drew attention to the small print in the clause this week, pushing the federation into confirming its possible interpretation and triggering a controversy. "You only find out these things by asking and the clubs never asked," the federation spokesman said. The move obviously benefits First Division sides Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Barcelona who have more than two foreigners on their books and problems keeping them all happy.

Roche doubtful for British cycling race

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Tour de France winner Stephen Roche was listed Friday as a doubtful starter in the first Kellogg's professional Tour of Britain cycling race. Roche tore a calf muscle in a crash during a race in the Netherlands last week and may miss the British event, which begins in Edinburgh Wednesday. Roche, the first Irish cyclist to win the Tour de France, is to announce his decision Monday, organisers said. The Tour of Britain ends in London Aug. 10.

Athlete to make 2nd comeback at 35

ROME (R) — World 200 metres record holder Pietro Mennea is coming out of retirement at the age of 35 in an apparent bid to make Italy's team for the world athletics championships in less than a month. Organisers of an international athletics meeting in Grosseto confirmed Friday that Mennea, out of competition since October 1984, would run the 200 metres at the event on Monday. Among his opponents will be Britain's Allan Wells, the same age and the man Mennea beat to the gold medal at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, a spokesman for the organisers said. Mennea has made no comment but Italian newspapers said his aim was at least to make the 4x100 or 4x400 metres relay teams at the world championships which open in Rome on August 29. Mennea's comeback will be the second in a career which took him to four Olympics. He set the current world 200 metres record of 19.72 seconds at the 1979 World Student Games in Mexico City and held the European 100 metres record from 1979 to 1983.

S. Korea further negotiate Pyongyang

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is willing to accept proposals to transfer additional 1988 Olympic events to North Korea but wants Pyongyang to stop making "excessive demands," a senior foreign ministry official has said. Assistant Foreign Minister Park Su-Gil told reporters that Seoul would discuss the games further with Pyongyang if it accepted last month's proposals by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch. After a fourth meeting between North and South Korean sports officials in Switzerland last month, Samaranch said the two countries should respond by September 17, exactly one year before the games are due to start. The proposals include giving North Korea the women's volleyball and the men's 100 km cycle road race.

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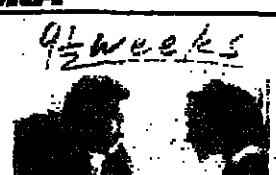
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.5720/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3240/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8813/20	West German marks
	2.1180/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5615/25	Swiss francs
	39.03/06	Belgian francs
	6.2740/90	French francs
	1363/1364	Italian lira
	151.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.5600/50	Swedish crowns
	6.8750/8800	Norwegian crowns
	7.1675/1725	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	461.50/462.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Sellers took up where they left off Thursday, extending the sharp share price falls in response to the unexpected one point rise in U.K. base rates to 10 per cent.

Dealers said worries ahead of a batch of U.K. economic statistics due soon had deepened Thursday's gloom, as had concern about funding recent rights issues in a falling market.

The FTSE 100 index found strong support around 2,196.4, by falling 65 points or 2.95 per cent to a morning low of 2,196.4. By 1217 GMT Friday the index rallied to 2,233.2 but drifted to 2,218.5 at 1417 GMT, a fall of 1.93 per cent or 42.9 points on the day.

The equity and government bond markets were stunned by the base rate rise Thursday. Some analysts construed the Bank of England signal for higher base rates as a possible warning that the trade data next week and inflation and money supply figures in the next two weeks might contain unpleasant surprises.

Most people have been apprehensive ahead of next Tuesday's release of June U.K. balance of payments data which is expected to reinforce the unexpected May trend to deficit.

Oil flows normally through Gulf despite Iranian manoeuvres

KUWAIT (R) — Oil is flowing normally through the Gulf despite Iranian naval manoeuvres and fresh threats against shipping, but a 'Eid Al Adha' holiday has slowed down general cargo traffic.

A Reuters survey of shipping agencies in the region, which supplies one-sixth of the non-communist world's oil imports, found tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz no less than usual since Iran started "operation martyrdom" on Tuesday.

"All ships are moving in and out of the Gulf normally," a Dubai-based shipping agent said. "They just have to stay well clear of Iranian territorial waters, otherwise they are sailing the way they have for some time."

More than 330 merchant ships have been hit in the Gulf since Iran and Iraq carried their war into shipping lanes in 1984. Captains have long sailed through the waterway with caution, adjusting speed and sailing times to minimise risks of attack.

The sources said the only extra precautions some merchant captains were taking were to sail closer to the Omani side of the Strait of Hormuz, at the entrance to the Gulf, and minimise radio calls that might identify them and their position.

Iranian naval manoeuvres have been held several times a year and have not posed problems for Gulf shippers in the past, the sources said.

The current exercises have caused concern since they follow Iranian threats to retaliate against the United States and Saudi Arabian for their alleged role in the deaths of hundreds of pilgrims, including Iranians, in clashes in Mecca on July 31.

Both Washington and Riyadh have denied responsibility, saying the riots were sparked by Iranian demonstrators.

Normal routes into the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz pass through international waters and then veer westward to avoid an Iraqi-declared exclusion zone.

The top four shipping agencies in Dubai, a major commercial hub in the United Arab Emirates

(UAE), said 17 of their vessels had entered or left the Gulf in the past 48 hours, a normal level.

Seven to eight million barrels per day of crude oil exports pass through the Gulf, in addition to gas and refined products.

Shipping sources say an average of 30 to 40 vessels pass through the strait daily but numbers can vary greatly, depending on lifting schedules.

Oil industry sources in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia said loading at their main oil ports of Mina Al Ahmadi and Ras Tanurah had not been hampered.

The shipping sources said the only noticeable slowdown in traffic was for cargo vessels due to the Muslim 'Eid Al Adha' (Feast of the Sacrifice) holiday which began in most Gulf states on Tuesday at the end of the annual pilgrimage.

Dubai's Port Rashid, one of the region's busiest, was shut on Tuesday and general cargo ports in the region were generally charging overtime for berthing and unloading during the four-to-five-day break.

To avoid extra payments, some cargo ship owners had delayed arrivals until next week, the sources said.

But this was not affecting tankers. "The tanker people aren't holding off in the slightest," said one senior shipping official in Kuwait. "The rates are too good."

Increased world demand for Gulf oil in the past year has helped push up tanker rates and a large queue of tankers waits for charter jobs outside the strait off the United Arab Emirates ports of Fujairah and Khor Fakkan.

"Any tanker owner who hesitated would immediately have 10 competitors fighting to fill his place," said the official.

The sources said there were 40 tankers waiting off Fujairah and about 25 off Khor Fakkan Thursday — the same level as last week.

They are either waiting for charter jobs, using services from the two ports, or acting as floating storage, said the official.

World Bank cuts off credit to Peru

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank has effectively cut off credit to Peru by downgrading the status of its loans to the country after repayments became long overdue, a bank official said Thursday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the bank, a major lender to developing nations, took the action on Monday.

Peru was more than six months late in payments of interest and principal on \$1.07 billion of loans it owes the bank, the official said.

Peru, which owes foreign creditors roughly \$14 billion, has steadily hardened its line over its foreign debt and has vowed to keep debt repayments to 10 per cent of its export earnings. Bankers, though, believe Peru's payments actually come closer to 15 per cent of export earnings.

The World Bank official said

the agency had put loans to Peru on a so-called non-accrual basis, under which late payments are not presumed to be part of the bank's income.

The action means that the Washington-based bank suspends disbursements on any current loans to the country and breaks off negotiations for fresh credits.

The official did not disclose how much money, if any, was affected, but the action draws the credit noose round the Peruvian economy even tighter.

At June 30, Peru was more than six months overdue on \$69 million, which has accordingly been deducted from World Bank income.

The World Bank never stretches out repayments of loans to debtor nations, a process known as rescheduling which has been the linchpin of the strategy for shoring up the shaky Third World

debt held by U.S. and other commercial banks.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia recently nationalised the banking sector, excluding foreign banks, in a move aimed at capturing the political high ground from the extremist guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

He is also stimulating the economy in a move analysts think may lead to an upsurge of inflation.

Peru has all but severed relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank's sister agency which also does not tolerate late payments except by the world's poorest nations.

The IMF last August declared Peru ineligible for future credit after Peru was late on payments of \$166 million it owes the global lending agency.

U.S. weighs further limits on Iran trade

WASHINGTON (R) — Washington is considering further restricting its very limited trade with Iran to ensure nothing that can be adapted to military use, such as scuba gear, is sold to Tehran, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the likely move would be discussed by senior officials from several U.S. government departments.

The United States last year sold Iran goods worth only \$35 million but has become concerned over Tehran's ability to adapt the most innocuous items for military use.

The officials, however, conceded that further restrictions on trade would have little effect.

"Instead of buying scuba gear from Michigan, they'll get it from Japan," one said.

Scuba gear — for frogmen who could fix limpet mines to shipping threatened in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war — is among several items Washington is considering withholding from Iran, the officials said.

"Most of the rest is stuff you can pick up in any dime store," one said.

The officials said the inter-agency meeting would have to come up with a definition of banned goods that did not violate a 1981 agreement with Iran in which each side promised not to impose trade embargoes on the other.

The so-called Algiers accord ended the 444-day captivity in Iran of 52 Americans taken hostage when the U.S. embassy in Tehran was taken over in protest against a decision to allow the ousted Shah of Iran into the United States for medical treatment in 1979.

U.S. imports from Iran amounted to just over \$600 million last year, most of it crude oil bought by commercial companies on the spot market, officials said.

The United States has for several years sought to limit world arms sales to Iran under "operation staunch" because, unlike Iraq, Iran has refused to negotiate an end to the Gulf war.

However, Washington breached its own arms embargo through clandestine weapons sales to Tehran in a bid to free American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. The revelation of the sales led to President Reagan's worst foreign policy crisis.

The officials said consideration of tighter export controls on goods bound for Iran stemmed from virulent Defence Department opposition to a \$900,000 computer sale to Tehran last March.

The state and commerce departments permitted the sale after an investigation that they said showed there was no way the computers could be adapted to military use.

The Pentagon, however, was profoundly irritated by the sale because the computers went to the official Iranian news agency IRNA and a government press office.

White House sees lower growth, higher inflation

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has rolled back growth estimates, but believes the American economy will continue to expand through 1988 and no recession is in sight.

Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, told a news conference Thursday that the administration had revised slightly downward its growth projection for next year to 3.5 per cent from the 3.7 per cent estimated in January.

He also said the administration was forecasting higher inflation and interest rates in 1987 and 1988 than it had previously predicted.

The inflation rate, as measured by consumer price rises, will be 4.8 per cent this year and 4.4 per cent in 1988, compared to earlier estimates of 3.8 per cent and 3.6 per cent, respectively, he said.

The slower-than-anticipated growth rate will reduce government revenues while higher inflation will increase federal spending levels to cover the higher cost of goods.

In addition, the higher interest rates will boost the cost of borrowing money at a time when the federal government has a debt of about \$2.2 trillion.

The White House did not release new estimates for the federal budget deficit and Mr. Sprinkel declined to comment on the matter, leaving that for later this month when a complete mid-session review of the economy and the federal budget is to be published.

But White House Budget Director James Miller recently estimated the 1987 deficit at about \$155 billion, and the deficit for 1988 is expected to be \$108 billion, the target set for federal red ink in a 1985 budget-balancing law.

This compares to an estimate of \$173.2 billion for 1987 in the president's January budget and a \$221 billion deficit recorded in 1986.

Because the president has said he is against any new taxes or cuts in the defence budget during the 1988 fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1, the administration will have to come with additional domestic spending cuts to meet the \$108 billion deficit target.

Particularly in the months before a presidential election year, compiling new targets for domestic spending cuts is a challenging task for any political body.

Perhaps in recognition of the challenge presented to the White House budget writers by the new fiscal 1988 economic projections, the White House recently asked all federal agencies to try to come up with ways to cut an extra \$10 billion to \$15 billion from current spending levels.

Despite the tough task awaiting the budget writers in the next few weeks, Mr. Sprinkel was generally optimistic about the economic outlook.

Meanwhile, a key House of Representatives committee Thursday approved a \$13.2 billion foreign aid bill, cutting President Reagan's request by \$2.7 billion.

President Reagan sought \$15.9 billion — much of it in military aid — a 14 per cent increase from 1987.

The House Appropriations Committee left President Reagan's largest requests — for Israel and Egypt — intact but sliced his requests to fund military assistance around the world.

Democrats, who control the committee, said the cuts were necessary as part of overall efforts in Congress to reduce the huge federal deficit, and they criticised the administration for submitting what they called an unrealistic budget request.

In the \$13.2 billion bill, the committee approved President Reagan's request for \$3 billion in economic aid and military aid for Israel, and \$2.1 billion for Egypt. The two countries together amount to more than 40 per cent of the bill's spending.

The panel delayed until Jan. 15, 1988, the availability of \$340 million in aid to Pakistan, while the House decides whether to stop U.S. assistance to Islamabad because of its refusal to accept nuclear non-proliferation agreements.

U.S. aid to Pakistan is contingent on Islamabad's assurance it is not building a nuclear bomb, although mounting independent evidence says it is pursuing a nuclear programme.

The committee also held in reserve the \$105 million President Reagan had earlier indicated he would seek for the Nicaraguan contra rebels. Should his newly announced peace plan, fail, the White House has said he may seek \$140 million.

Also provided was \$284 million in aid to the Philippines, nearly \$700 million for the Central American democracies, and about \$200 million for sub-Saharan Africa.

The committee allocated \$340 million for Greece, down from President Reagan's request of \$434 million, and \$490 million for Turkey, far lower than the \$910 million Reagan request.

A parallel House foreign aid authorisation bill approved earlier did not specifically earmark funds for Pakistan and cut a \$50 million request for development aid to India because some members complained of India's friendly ties to Nicaragua and the Soviet Union.

The Senate is also working on its own foreign aid bills and the two legislative bodies must reach a compromise budget before sending it to President Reagan.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is not the day to try new modes of procedure. Instead, rely on familiar practices, make a schedule early, and stick to it. Don't let setbacks ruin your day.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't expect friends to pull you through today. Use your own abilities, and you'll accomplish much more than you thought.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't be overly enthusiastic today, but go along with the ideas of a superior. Be careful driving.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may want a change of scenery and people, but now is the time to finish up projects which have been waiting.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Patience will be necessary in dealing with your mate, who is in a troubled mood. Show your devotion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) An exceptionally odd individual may try to involve you in a plan which would be detrimental to your best interests.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Although you may be in a mood to procrastinate, set your jaw and muddle through with your daily routines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Someone in your circle of associates has an eye on your assets. Be careful not to give them the edge they need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Home matters can become unpleasant if you go off on a tangent or try to force your opinions on anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't overreact to constructive criticism. Be cautious in all communications, and also while in motion.

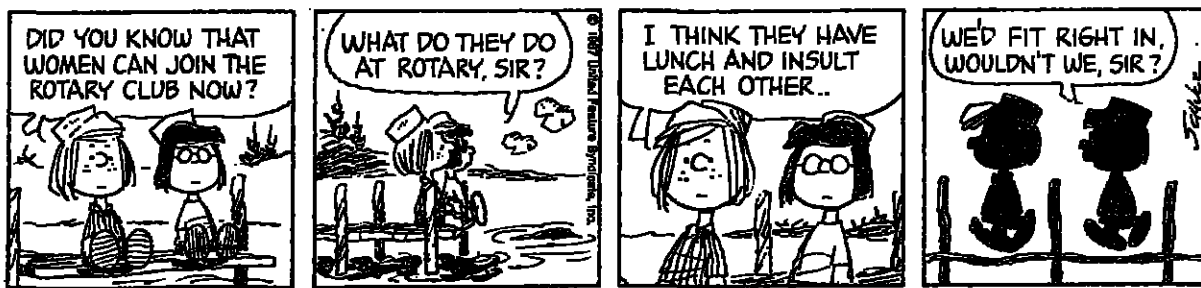
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't postpone making important payments. Get necessary advice from those who have been successful in the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Keep a tight reign on your temper. Don't act strangely due to the instigation of others who have foolish attitudes.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try not to needle your mate today. He will not go over well. Tend only to the work which is immediately necessary.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she may tend to be altogether too forceful in actions and expressions and should be taught early to use self-control. A good education is a must since the mind is exceptional and your progeny could have great success. Sports are a must for this energetic individual.

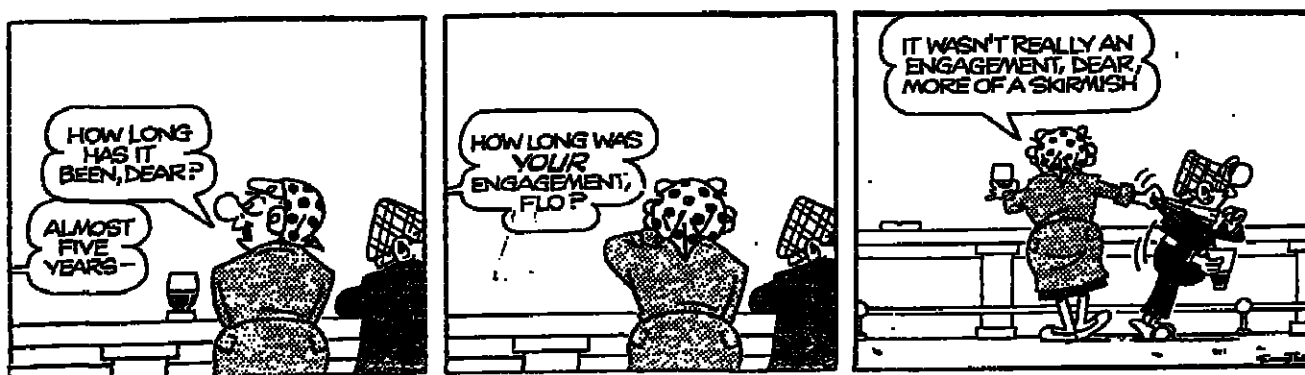
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

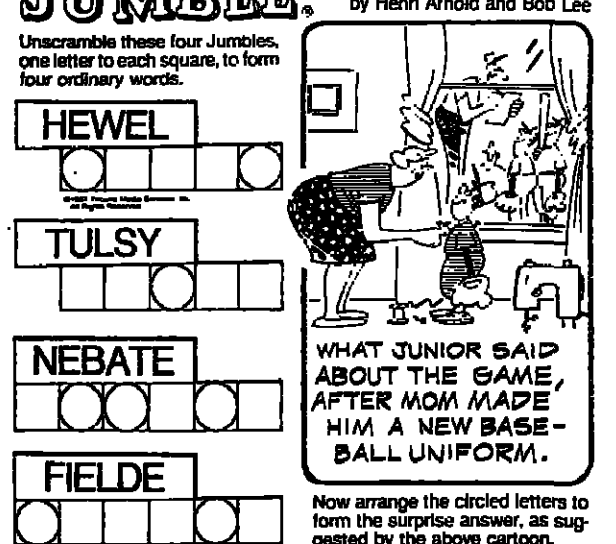


THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"This stuff restores the shine to old furniture. Got anything that will restore the shine to an old marriage?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: IT'S UP

Yesterday's Jumble: FEIGN BANAL SYSTEM HELPER
Answer: Why the magician hired her as his assistant — SHE WAS HIS HALF-SISTER

Ileto: Philippines shakier than before

MANILA (R) — Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto described the Philippines Friday as more unstable than in 1972 when former President Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law to curb widespread crime and violence.

Gunmen assassinated a government minister last Sunday. Communist hit squads have killed about 50 police in Manila this year and newspapers have reported that prominent government and military leaders' names are on rebel hit lists.

"In 1972, the threat was not as large as we have now. It has increased," Gen. Ileto said in an interview.

Police are groping for clues to the murder of Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer and his driver driver outside the minister's home on Sunday night. Gen. Ileto said it was unclear whether the shooting was the work of the left, the right or a disgruntled official.

Gen. Ileto, defence secretary since last November when Pres-

ident Corazon Aquino fired Juan Ponce Enrile for links to a coup plot, said the military and police lacked vital moral support from the people and money from the government.

"The threat to stability is greater than in 1972 and, at the same time, the budget for the police and the military has gone down," he said.

He said the military and police budgets made up 7.2 per cent of the national budget, compared to 22 per cent in 1973 just after martial law was declared.

He shrugged off reports that his name was on a rebel hit list. Communist hit squads — called "Sparrows" because of their swift attacks and escape — have claimed responsibility for half of about 50 policemen killed on

Manila streets since January. "We would expect it. Anyway, if I'm not included and (my colleagues) are, something is wrong with me. I would feel insulted," Gen. Ileto said.

He said a certain amount of instability was to be expected as the new constitutional system introduced last month found its bearings.

"The chances for chaos and anarchy are greater under a truly democratic system ... if we say 'let's clamp down on this whole thing and shortcut the democratic process,' maybe we could solve these crimes, but we would have to sacrifice a principle," he said.

Gen. Ileto said the Philippine people, in any case, would not stand for another period of martial law. Marcos, now in exile in Hawaii after being toppled by Mrs. Aquino last year in a civilian-backed military revolt, ruled for 20 years, nine of those under martial law.

"People have just knocked off

a dictatorship and for them martial law is seen as just a stepping stone to dictatorship."

Gen. Ileto said Communist rebels had lost public support because of the "Sparrow" killings, which he called an unsuccessful terror campaign, a "psychological war."

President Aquino said Friday the murder of Mr. Ferrer underlined the serious challenges facing the government, but she vowed not to adopt the tactics of her opponents.

"Can we have order without tyranny and peace without oppression? Must democracy fight with the weapons of its enemies, with treachery and cowardice?" Mrs. Aquino said at a memorial service for Mr. Ferrer.

Extra bodyguards have been assigned to top officials after a congressional leader and the election commission chief received death threats from Communist and Muslim guerrillas.

Sikh extremists kill 14 Hindus in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh gunmen shot dead 14 Hindus in two attacks in the north Indian state of Punjab, police said.

Gunmen on two motor scooters asked for Hindu homes near Majitha village outside Amritsar, broke down doors and shot 12 occupants with automatic rifles.

Extremists also killed two Hindus near Tarn Taran town, police in the state capital Chandigarh said.

Gunmen have killed 19 Hindus in the past 24 hours in attacks which police said were aimed at provoking a backlash from

minority-Hindus in the state. Extremists shot dead five Hindu car passengers near the Sikh holy city Amritsar Thursday.

Hindu and Communist parties in the city called a strike there Friday to protest against the shootings.

Police said they expected further attacks after receiving intelligence reports that some extremist gangs had acquired new Chinese-made assault rifles. The extremists want to set up an independent Sikh state in Punjab.

Their campaign has cost 711 lives so far this year compared with 640 in all of 1986.

12,000 scientists reportedly refuse SDI research funds

URBANA, Illinois (AP) — Some 7,000 U.S. scientists have pledged to refuse research funds linked to the "Star Wars" defence system proposed by the administration of President Ronald Reagan, a physicist says.

So far, 12,000 scientists worldwide have joined the opposition to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), John B. Kogut of the University of Illinois reported in Friday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"It is important that the programme not reach a 'critical mass,' above which it will assume a life of its own regardless of its feasibility," said Kogut, who helped start the boycott in 1985. In Washington, a Defence Department spokesman said the boycott had had little impact.

The SDI research programme is aimed at developing lasers and other exotic weapons that could be deployed on the ground or in space to automatically shoot

down missiles fired at the United States.

Mr. Reagan proposed the multi-billion-dollar SDI project in 1983, saying he wanted to see if American scientists could develop a system capable of knocking down a Soviet nuclear strike, thus making atomic weapons obsolete.

The 12,000 scientists worldwide who have signed a pledge not to accept "Star Wars" research funds include 7,000 in the United States, 3,000 in Japan and 1,000 in England, Kogut said in an interview Thursday. Among them are 21 Nobel laureates in chemistry and physics, he said.

The pledge contends that a complete "Star Wars" defence is impossible, and that anything less will encourage the deployment of more nuclear weapons and increase the chance for nuclear holocaust, he said.

Nakasone will not visit shrine honouring war dead

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone will not make a visit to the shrine honouring Japan's war dead for the second year running in deference to international sentiment, a senior cabinet minister said Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda said that because of the feelings of neighbouring nations, Mr. Nakasone would not visit Yasukuni Shrine on Aug. 15, 42nd anniversary of the end of World War II.

Seven Japanese leaders hanged

as war criminals by the allies are among the 2.5 million war dead enshrined there.

Last year, Mr. Nakasone scrapped a planned visit after strong criticism from China, South Korea, and other Asian countries. The year before, he became the first post-war prime minister to make an official visit, though most predecessors made unofficial ones.

The Shinto religious shrine next to the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo was founded in 1869.

4 Japanese admit selling documents to Soviets, Chinese

TOKYO (AP) — Four Japanese men admitted in court that they had sold stolen U.S. military documents to Soviet and Chinese buyers, a lawyer defending one of the accused said.

On the first day of their trial in the Tokyo district court, the four men admitted to charges of theft and purchase of stolen goods, said lawyer Yoshito Nagai.

The defendants, all around age 60, are accused of stealing documents on maintenance of U.S. military planes from the U.S. Air Force Base in Yokota, west of Tokyo. The men, who

were arrested in May, allegedly sold the documents to a Soviet government official in Tokyo and a Chinese official in China.

The U.S. documents had been declassified, Mr. Nagai said. Japan has no anti-espionage laws. The maximum sentence for theft is 10 years imprisonment. For the purchase of stolen goods, it is 10 years imprisonment and a 200,000 yen (\$1,330) fine.

Hiroshi Osumi is charged with stealing documents from the Yokota Air Base library, where he worked. He admitted to having stolen the documents.

proposal by Mr. Ortega for bilateral talks on the plan.

"I think it is critical to establish that there is no way the United States would want to sit down with Nicaragua to decide what is right for Central America. That has to be done by all the Central American countries," the secretary said.

Mr. Ortega, arriving Thursday in Guatemala City, said: "If the United States rejects direct talks with us, the whole thing is a sham, a publicity stunt designed to impress whoever they think is gullible enough."

Mr. Ortega had called for an "unconditional dialogue" with the United States on the Reagan plan, which offers Nicaragua an end to contra aid in return for Sandinista implementation of a ceasefire and democratic reform, among other measures, by Sept. 30.

Mr. Ortega's proposal was consistent with Nicaragua's long-standing position that the United States is responsible for the armed struggle in his country and that bilateral talks are the only hope for a solution.

The United States and Nicaragua held a series of peace talks in the latter half of 1984 but that process was suspended by the Reagan administration in January 1985. There have been no substantive negotiations since.

Mr. Shultz left the door slightly ajar to talks with Nicaragua, saying the United States is willing to confer with all countries involved in the peace process.

But he said that option would be pursued only if it would advance the goal of a regional solution to Central America's problems.

Chernobyl victims survived large radiation doses — doctor

CHICAGO (R) — The Chernobyl nuclear accident showed that humans can survive higher doses of radiation than once thought possible if they receive proper medical treatment, an American researcher has said.

Doctor Robert Gale, a bone marrow transplant specialist who went to the Soviet Union to treat victims of the April 1986 disaster, said Thursday there were three medical lessons to be learned from the accident.

"First, nuclear accidents are far more complex than imagined. Investigators are just now beginning appropriate computer simulations of accidents of the Chernobyl magnitude and complexity."

"Second, immediate medical interventions vary in their effectiveness and limitations."

"Third, humans can survive considerably greater exposure to radiation than anticipated, which is not surprising in view of recent advances in supportive care, antibiotics and transfusions."

The accident killed 31 people and injured nearly 500. Thousands were evacuated from areas of the Ukraine contaminated by the explosion and fire in the nuclear reactor.

Dr. Gale said the deaths and injuries might have been much higher had not prevailing winds kept radioactive particles away from the cities of Kiev and Pripjat.

He said it also helped that the accident happened at a time most people were indoors and there was no rain or snow.

"Intensive supportive care was associated with a higher rate of survival in most individuals receiving less than 600 rad of whole-body radiation," Dr. Gale said in an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"It is impossible to know what proportion of these individuals would have survived if no treatment were given ... nevertheless, it is highly likely that such measures as the use of systemic antibiotics, gastrointestinal tract decontamination and platelet transfusions can save lives."

Dr. Gale said more than 100 victims "received a dose in excess of 100 rad, and more than 35 persons received a dose exceeding 500 rad. The proposed 50 per cent lethal dose within 60 days is 450 rad."

Most of those who died, including 11 who received bone marrow transplants, succumbed to skin burns and damage to internal organs, Dr. Gale said.

"It is certain that bone marrow transplantation can save only a small proportion of victims of radiation accidents," he said.

More than 90 per cent of those injured in the accident are now well and most have been discharged from treatment, he said.

Thousands of Panamanians demand Noriega's resignation

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters screaming for democracy forced the capital's financial district to close as they marched in an anti-government demonstration said to be the largest yet.

"Long live Panama, down with Noriega," they yelled in unison Thursday while waving white handkerchiefs and flags, a traditional form of protest in Panama.

There was a party-like atmosphere as the protesters, who included both rich and poor, covered eight blocks of the Via Espana thoroughfare and surrounding streets. White rolls of paper and white confetti fluttered in the air, thrown from terraces of apartment buildings, banks and hotels.

"We want justice," they cried. An elderly man standing nearby added, "and the democracy."

Pravda attacks Reagan's Central American peace plan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Friday U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Central American peace plan did not aim for an authentic solution to conflicts in the region.

The plan, announced by Mr. Reagan on Wednesday, includes calls for an immediate ceasefire and free elections in Nicaragua and an end to Soviet-Bloc aid to the Sandinista government.

"If you look closely at this plan, you find it pursues aims which have little in common with authentic solution to the Central American crisis," Pravda said in an article by commentator Vitaly Korionov.

He said a crisis had developed in Central America because of the military efforts of the Reagan administration, and Pentagon and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) support for anti-government forces in Nicaragua.

"Does this new 'plan' remove this main obstacle to a peaceful settlement of the conflict? In my opinion, it does not," Korionov said. "In short, it demands some kind of capitulation from Managua..."

He said opposition groups in Nicaragua had apparently welcomed the U.S. plan because they believed Managua would reject it and more pressure could then be put on Washington to allocate more funds to the anti-government contra rebels.

Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega has called for direct talks on the plan and said that if this call was rejected, the U.S. proposals would be revealed as a propaganda ploy to justify more funding for rebels fighting the government and possible direct

U.S. intervention. The United States rejected Mr. Ortega's call Thursday and Central American leaders meeting in Guatemala said they would proceed with discussions of alternative peace proposals by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

Mr. Arias said democracy was the key to ending the region's three guerrilla wars — in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

While Central American presidents continue peace talks here, Nicaraguan rebels have been holding court just half a block away and submitting proposals of their own to the Guatemalan government.

The leaders of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador Thursday formally opened a meeting to discuss a peace plan drawn up by Mr. Arias.

The initiative calls for a ceasefire, arms reduction and a plan for democracy in the region and the five leaders are meeting for the first time in 15 months to discuss it.

A major stumbling block to agreement has been U.S. funding for the Nicaraguan contra rebels. On Wednesday, the Reagan administration announced a plan to cease funding in return for commitments on democracy.

As the presidents gathered Thursday, five top contra leaders flew in to Guatemala City and set up camp in the Hotel Fiesta, just half a block from the Hotel Camino Real where the summit is taking place.

The leaders — Adolfo Calero, commander of the largest anti-Sandinista group, Alfonso Robe-

Britain's SDP votes for merger; Owen resigns

LONDON (R) — Thursday's vote by members of Britain's Social Democratic Party (SDP) clears the way for a merger with their electoral allies the Liberals.

But the two groups, badly defeated in the June general election, still have some way to go before they unite as a single opposition party.

Rejecting the advice of their leader David Owen, Social Democrats voted by 57.4 per cent to 42.6 in favour of merging with the Liberals.

Mr. Owen resigned within an hour of the result. "This is far from being an overwhelming endorsement for a merger," he said on television, adding he would remain a Social Democratic member of parliament in Plymouth, South west England.

"I will continue to lead the campaign for Social Democracy and I will work with Social Democrats, in parliament and in the country, who wish to do the same," he said.

Liberal leader David Steel called Mr. Owen's attitude to a merger "profoundly mistaken." Mr. Steel has been promoting the merger since the June ballot, when the Alliance won just 22 of the 650 seats in parliament.

Mr. Steel, also speaking on television, said the SDP ballot produced "a very substantial ex-

pression of support by the grassroots membership of the SDP for the democratic fusion in a new party."

He said an effective movement was needed to challenge the Conservatives led by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the next general election in four years.

But several hurdles must be cleared first. Mr. Owen's supporters have a majority in the SDP's executive, which will appoint a commission to draw up a constitution for the unified party and to lead negotiations with the Liberals.

A Liberal membership ballot will be held this autumn after the each party holds its annual conference.

The SDP's policy-making Council for Social Democracy is scheduled to take its decision in January, when a two-thirds majority will be needed for constitutional change.

Final approval has then to be sought from the party membership in a further ballot.

Mr. Steel said he expected unification to be completed by next spring.

He cast doubt Thursday on his willingness to stand for leadership of a merged party, saying: "I take the view that there is a strong case for somebody who is not David Steel or David Owen."

Commonwealth Press Union attacks U.K. ban on spy book

LONDON (AP) — Government moves to stop newspapers publishing extracts from Spycatcher, the memoirs of retired British intelligence agent Peter Wright, are shackling press freedom, the Commonwealth Press Union has said.

"The public cannot enjoy its right of free speech fully if the freedom of the press is shackled as it now is," said Lord Ardwick of Barnes, chairman of the organisation's Press Freedom Committee.

The threat of prosecution by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government under the sweeping powers of Britain's Official Secrets Act has prevented publication of the book in this country, but it was published in the United States last month.

The government has done nothing to stop copies of the book being brought into Britain but has

obtained injunctions prohibiting newspapers from publishing extracts from it in England.

The government, meanwhile, is waiting for an Australian court to rule on whether Spycatcher can be published there and it has warned Canadian publishers Stoddart Publishing that it may try to sue for any profits made from sales of the book there.

In a ruling in London last week, the Law Lords of the House of Lords, who comprise the highest court in the land, upheld an injunction obtained earlier by the government banning newspapers in this country from reporting verbatim extracts from Spycatcher.

At the same time, the Law Lords by a 3-2 majority extended the ban, saying English newspapers also must not report proceedings held in open court in the hearing in Australia.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 4
♥ 9
♦ Q 7 6
♣ Q J 10 8 7 3

WEST
♠ J 9 8
♥ A Q 10 8 6
♦ A 10 8 3
♣ A

EAST
♠ 10 3
♥ K J 7 6 3 2
♦ 9 4 2
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 6 5 2
♥ 4
♦ K J 5
♣ K 9 6 2

The bidding: North East South West

Pass Pass 1♠ 2♥

2♠ 4♥ Pass Pass

4♠ Pass Pass Dbl

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

North America has lagged behind Europe in teaching bridge to young persons. At one point, administrators of the game believed that to teach schoolchildren bridge would be inviting them to ignore homework in favor of the card game. Experience has shown that if children don't want to study, they don't need bridge to lure them away from their lessons. Besides, bridge has valuable attributes for

young people. Along with honing their mathematical skills, the partnership aspects teach them to work with other people. Now that the American Contract Bridge League has set up a Bridge Education department, perhaps we can look forward soon to more bridge in schools.

At the recent Summer North American Championships in Toronto, one of the youngest players was 13-year-old Andrew Moss of New York. His mother, Gail Greenberg, is a many-time world champion and his father, Mike Moss, is a well-known tournament player. He came up with sparkling defense on this deal.

As the card lay, Andrew's four-heart contract was headed for a one-trick set. When the opponents bid to four spades, he elected to double rather than compete further.

Andrew led his ace of clubs, and now he had to score a quick club ruff if he was going to beat the contract. He continued with the ace of diamonds, looking for a signal should his partner hold the king. East followed with a low diamond. Showing the splendor of a veteran, he coolly underled his ace of hearts. East won the king of hearts and had no difficulty in returning a club Andrew for to ruff.

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Actor Sean Penn released from jail

BRIDGEPORT, California (R) — Actor Sean Penn has left the tiny jail in this California desert town where he was serving a 60-day sentence for punching a film extra. Penn, 26, entered the jail last Friday night and was allowed to leave to continue work on a movie being made in Germany. A spokeswoman for the Mono County Sheriff said Penn was due to return to his 40-dollar-a-day rent-a-cell near the end of the month. With good behaviour, she said, he could complete his sentence in four weeks. Penn, husband of rock star Madonna, was convicted of punching a film extra during a break in the making of the film *Colors*. Madonna did not visit Penn during his stint in Bridgeport, a small community near the Yosemite National Park.

Rare animals traded illegally in China

PEKING (AP) — Rare monkeys, snakes and other animals as well as animal skins and skeletons are regularly bought and sold in the marketplace in a southern Chinese city, despite government protection of the animals and ban on such trade, a leading Chinese newspaper reported Friday. Nanning, the capital of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, remains a centre for trade in such rare and protected animals as the white-headed langur monkey and pangolin, or scaly anteater, the *Economic Daily* reported Friday. The paper said rare species of monkeys, including the white-headed langur that is indigenous to Guangxi, were selling for 150 to 200 yuan (\$40 to \$54) on the streets of Nanning. An accompanying photo showed about 10 pangolins on sale. Stores in Nanning's commercial district were full of skins and skeletons of every kind, as well as live snakes, monkeys' claws and dried monkey and frog meat, it said. Other rare animals on the market included the raccoon dog, owl, python, and giant lizard, the paper said. Most of the animals were captured by local residents from nearby mountains and sold to private vendors who brought them into the city, it said.

Gun-toting robber kills 3, hurts 1

PEKING (AP) — An armed street peddler robbed and killed another peddler, then shot dead a factory worker and wounded a police officer who gave chase, a leading Chinese newspaper reported Friday. Chen Qingning, a street peddler from Xichang, Sichuan province, was caught by a group of citizens led by the wounded police officer in a busy shopping district of Chengdu, also in Sichuan province, the *Worker's Daily* said. The newspaper gave this account of the incident, which began late in the afternoon. Chen took a taxi to pick up another peddler, Yang Xuewen, who got into the cab with a heavy bag full of money. The two told the driver, Liao Zhilan, to take them to the city's south railroad station, where they planned to change the money into more valuable foreign exchange certificates used mainly by foreigners. On the way, Chen shot and killed Yang, then forced the driver at gunpoint to take him to the outskirts of the city. Instead, Liao headed for Chengdu's downtown section and, when he saw a police officer, stopped the car and jumped out, shouting: "arrest the criminal." Chen shot Liao, wounding him in the hand, and tried to escape. A crowd of people, led by police officer Su Rongguang and a young factory worker gave chase. Chen again opened fire, killing the factory worker, Du Qinglin, and wounding Su in the forehead. The paper did not say whether Chen still was being held, whether charges were filed against him or give any other details of the case.

Popular resort invaded by jellyfish

PEKING (AP) — An invasion of jellyfish at a popular Chinese beach resort has killed one person and injured more than 1,500 swimmers since late July, the state-run China Daily reported Friday. The report said a 25-year-old woman died from jellyfish stings on July 29 after being admitted to a hospital in Beidaihe, a summer resort about 300 kilometres north east of Peking. On the same day, 166 swimmers were treated at the emergency room of the Beidaihe People's Hospital for jellyfish stings, it said. The report quoted a local official as saying the jellyfish population was 20 times greater than in past years. It said a kind of jellyfish with a potentially toxic tentacle normally lives well away from the shore has approached the beach this year. The daily said that as of Aug. 4, there had been 1,539 reported cases of jellyfish stings. It said the number of cases decreased since the local government held an emergency meeting and issued newspaper and television warnings on the dangers of the sea animal.

Gary Hart mailing list fetches \$6,500

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Only two people bid for a list of 40,000 contributors to the 1984 presidential campaign of Gary Hart at an auction to pay off some of the ex-candidate's campaign debts. One of the bidders was Tri-State Envelope Corp., which claimed the Hart campaign owed it \$140,000 for work in the 1984 campaign. David Pinch, a lawyer representing Tri-State, said he entered the bidding in an attempt to force up the price. The list was purchased by Mel Naselski for \$6,500. "I hope I got a bargain," said Naselski, whose Philadelphia-area Direct-Mail firm has worked on numerous Democratic races. He said the company might make the list available to all Democratic candidates now running for president. According to Federal Election Commission records, Hart's 1984 debt totals \$1.3 million.

Director John Huston in hospital

FALL RIVER, Mass. (R) — Celebrated film director John Huston remained in serious but stable condition in hospital as doctors evaluated his chronic emphysema, a hospital spokeswoman said. Dorothy Allen of the Charlton Memorial Hospital said doctors had not released a prognosis for Huston who turned 81 Wednesday. Huston, the director of such acclaimed films as *Prizzi's Honour* and *The Man Who Would Be King*, went to the hospital on Tuesday after falling ill with his long-time lung problem on his way to a local film set. He has suffered from emphysema for many years and often uses an oxygen system. Huston had planned to play a small role in the new film *Mr. North*, but the part has now been taken by an old friend, actor Robert Mitchum. 'Mr. North, based on a jazz age comedy of manners by playwright Thornton Wilder, is directed by Huston's 25-year-old son Daniel and stars his daughter Angelica as well as Lauren Bacall, Tammy Grimes and Harry Dean Stanton.

U.S. mission control centre complex flooded

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Water from a broken pipe flooded part of a room at mission control where hundreds of millions of dollars worth of computers help monitor and control U.S. manned space flights, officials said. Space Centre spokesman Doug Ward said workers installing new cables in a crawl space between the first and second floors of the complex broke a pipe that carried chilled water for the air conditioning system. Several hundred gallons of water spilled into the first floor before the water could be shut off, Ward said. The crawl space contains electronic data cables and Ward said facilities on both first and second floors could be affected. The mission control complex is the brain centre for all U.S. manned spaceflights. During a space shuttle flight, computers monitor thousands of systems aboard the orbiting spacecraft and collect and assess the data for teams of engineers who monitor the mission. All communications to the orbiting astronauts go through mission control. Mission control currently is being used only for training of astronauts and control engineers.